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CHIEF EDITOR:
JIAN RONG
NEWS EDITOR:
YU SHANSHAN
DESIGNER:
DENG NING



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Netizen finds ear for complaints in district gov

By Milo Lee

When Allensmart126 posted five questions on the Internet for the chief of Haidian District, he did not expect the local government to act so fast on his complaints about the deteriorating environment of Mingguangcun, a garden village turned urban slum in central Beijing.

Bad environment prompts in questions for district chief

On October 28, a post that contained five harsh questions appeared on several Web sites. The questions asked why a village like Mingguangcun still exists inside Third Ring Road, why the environment has worsened during recent years yet no one noticed, and why there are no dumps and public restrooms for residents. The questions directly addressed the chief of Haidian District. Allensmart126 asked the chief in his last question why he had never come to see what is really happening in Mingguangcun Village.

Mingguangcun is a 0.5-square-kilometer dwelling area on North Third Ring. Allensmart126's family has lived there for 70 years, and as much as he loves the place he grew up, he said it is frustrating to see today's Mingguangcun.

Allensmart126, 25, said when he was young, his house was surrounded by vegetable fields and greenhouses. Today, these have been replaced by trash and sewage.

"With urbanization, our living condition has steadily plum-



Residents live in illegally-built, ramshackle homes in Mingguangcun.

Photo by Milo Lee

meted. The once broad roads of the Hutong are gone, and illegal construction occupies most of the space. Hidden fire hazards can be seen everywhere. This place has practically become a slum," Allensmart126 said.

Government's quick response surprises locals

Upon hearing the news, Lin Fusheng, chief of Haidian District, asked his deputy chief and the Municipal Administration Committee to go to Mingguangcun to investigate. On November

3, five measures to improve living conditions in Mingguangcun were announced. Those measures focused on demolition of old buildings and construction of new dumps and public restrooms. A renovation plan for Mingguangcun is now on the government agenda.

"This is a rather quick move, considering that since 2005, district representatives of National People's Congress have been suggesting the government renovate the village," a local resident who

refused to give his name said.

Allensmart126 posted similar messages on the Internet since early October, but received few responses. On October 17, a resident from Fangshan District plastered several open letters at bus stations to the Chief of Fangshan District complaining about the crowded buses. The letter also contained five questions, which Allensmart126 credits for inspiring his own five-question posts.

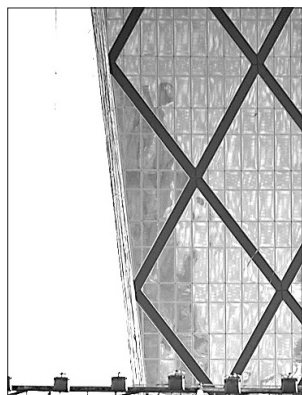
Residents hope for change

Although the locals welcome

the measures, concerns persist over whether these measures will go deeper than the surface. Many residents hope the government will map out more detailed plans to improve Mingguangcun.

Allensmart126 said he is more concerned about the renovation of the "urban village": for example, the demolition and reconstruction of Mingguangcun in the image of other urban villages. He said he would continue to follow the problems of his neighborhood.

Officials, economists say Beijing economy won't drop



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Beijing's post-Olympics economy continues to be a subject of speculation. CFP Photo

The possibility of an economic trough in Beijing after the Olympics has long been a topic of debate. According to "Research on Beijing's Post-Olympic Economy," a new report led by the Beijing Municipal Commission on Development and Reform, officials and economists agree the capital will continue its steady and fast development.

The city is still young and energetic. Before preparing for the Olympics, Beijing was just entering the list of cities with a per capita GDP of US\$10,000 (68,280 yuan). It was a period of rapid urbanization, marketization and internationalization. The city had a population of 16 million, which offered great market capacity and consumption ability.

The local financial revenue of the city has continued at a growth rate of 20 percent for the past 13 years. The yearly demands of investment and consumption in Beijing are as much as 400 billion yuan separately. Limited finances were invested in the Olympics, leaving the city enough money for future development.

The Jing-Jin-Ji economic circle, a region made up of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, also has a strong development momentum. Consumption is not yet saturated, and demand has a growing impact on the international market.

Hosting the Olympic Games was good for Beijing's future eco-

nomie growth, but in the end, any economic boom is decided by the city's own level of development.

Lu Yingchuan, vice director of Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform, said when Beijing won its bid to host the 2008 Olympics, the government saw opportunity in post-Olympic development and prepared relevant projects. The Olympic Common Domain was scheduled as one of the six functional districts of the city.

Systematic arrangements were made for the city's construction and development before and after the Olympics, such as a 15-year plan drafted in 2005 and the city's five-year plan. With the support of its sponsors, it has also balanced revenue and expenditure.

The city has started many projects since the Olympics, including the construction of new subway lines and environmental protection works. Most of the venues' operation schedules are complete: one example is the business cooperation between Beijing Wukasang Culture and Sports Center and AEG, which brought the NBA games to the city.

"As an open, international city, Beijing is inevitably under the influence of the world's economy, but it is just a normal downturn that is part of having a market economy. It cannot be blamed on the Olympics," Lu Yingchuan said.

(By Wang Yu)

Underground mall in Olympic Domain seeks new investors

By Zhang Dongya

Some 240,000 square meters of underground stores in the Olympic Common Domain opened to investment last weekend. It was one of the six projects in the 2008 Market Promotion Conference on Olympic Economy held last Friday.

The underground mall is located at the center of the Olympic Common Domain, to the north side of the Bird's Nest. According to the plan, the mall is to host top-class business services together with entertainment, recreation, shopping and catering.

The blueprint for construction and interior decoration of the underground mall is finished, and work will begin late this year or early next, Wei Li, chief economist of Xin'ao Group, which is in charge of Olympic land development, said at the conference.

A parking lot with 1,300 spaces will be built to add additional space for visitors.

Wei Li said they are trying to attract enterprises with experience operating enterprises, especially flagship shops.

The details of the investment are underway. The underground mall will receive customers by the

end of 2009, and no later than 2010," Li Li, the deputy director of Xin'ao Group, said.

Another 2.3 million square meters of land on the ground are planned for further construction. These include commercial plots for office buildings and hotels, as well as cultural establishments.

Besides the Olympic Common Domain, five other functional districts including Zhongguancun Technology Park, Yizhuang Development Area and Lize Financial Business District (FBD) are also being planned for further development.

The six functional districts will be the focus of development projects to drive the post-Olympic economy, Song Yu, deputy director of Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform, said at the conference.

Song said the Olympic Games brought much during the past seven years of preparation and greatly aided economic development. Construction moved quickly, and most people benefited from it, he said.

"Though the full investment task for this year will be hard to complete due to economic depression, there remains much room for future investment," Song said.

Sacked marine official skirts molestation charge

By Huang Daohen

A Shenzhen marine official who was sacked after his alleged attempt to molest a young girl will not be criminally charged, the public security bureau of Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, said Wednesday.

The Shenzhen police said their investigation found that the official had misbehaved while drunk, but had not molested the girl. Charges were dropped due to a lack of evidence.

Lin Jiaxiang, 58, a Commu-

nist Party chief and deputy director of the Shenzhen Maritime Safety Administration, was dismissed from his post after he attempted to force an 11-year-old girl into the men's restroom in a seafood restaurant in Shenzhen last Wednesday night.

The girl, surnamed Chen, escaped.

A video captured by the restaurant's closed-circuit cameras showed the girl helping Lin as he asked her to guide him to the men's room in the lobby of the restau-

rant. But she was seen running away about one minute after the two disappeared from the screen.

The girl said she was attacked at the door of the men's room. The video then showed Lin clashing with the girl's parents, who demanded an explanation after their daughter ran back to their table crying.

Lin was also seen yelling that he was dispatched by the Ministry of Transport and was an official of equal rank with the city mayor.

"Yes I did it, so what? How

much do you want, just tell me. I'll give you the money," Lin said according to footage shown on the Sina.com Web site.

An audio record later revealed that Lin begged the daughter's father to make a deal and forget the whole thing. His plea was rejected.

Armies of netizens have taken part in the "human flesh search engine," the online manhunt that tracked down Lin the following day. Photos of Lin receiving various government awards, including a commendation on behalf of

his work unit, were soon plastered across the Internet.

Though online manhunts have happened frequently the past few years, this was the first time one resulted in the sacking of a senior government official, a commentator wrote on 163.com.

This time, it touched a chord among millions of Chinese who are angered by officials' abuse of power. The human flesh search engine may be a way to monitor officials who profit from their positions, another netizen said.

Chongqing taxi fleet on strike

By Venus Lee

When Zhong Zhen, a clerk in Chongqing, wanted to hail a taxi to go to work Monday morning, she found there were none on the road. "I waited 15 minutes, but no taxi showed up. I had to walk all the way to the nearest station to catch an over-crowded bus, where everyone was complaining about the lack of taxis," she said.

Taxi drivers in Chongqing staged a strike in protest of high operating costs, shortages of natural gas and high traffic fines. During the strike, thousands of taxis remained out of operation from early Monday morning to Tuesday afternoon. However, the event had no impact on the Beijing Taxi industry.

Reasons for the strike

Zhou Bo, spokesman for the Chongqing Government, said cab companies who illegally increased their fees without government permission were the driving force behind the strike.

Drivers in Chongqing were required to pay company owners 380 to 440 yuan per day in fees, but the hike in fees dropped their annual income by 20,000 yuan.

The drivers also complained about a shortage of compressed natural gas (CNG), which is used to fuel most cabs in Chongqing. Competition from unlicensed cabs and high fines for traffic violations were other factors in the strike.

Drivers must wait up to three hours to refill their CNG tanks at a limited number of fuel stations, and each taxi must be fueled four times a day. Competition from 2,000 to 3,000 unlicensed cabs has seriously cut into the profits of licensed drivers.

Most cabs back the next day

"Some 85 percent of cabs went back to work after the government promised to settle drivers' grievances. There are getting to be more and more taxis, so I think things are getting back to normal," Wang Xian, a section chief of Chongqing Road Transportation Bureau, said.

On Tuesday afternoon, the government promised to revise the division of fares between drivers and companies in favor of the drivers. A government spokesman said the daily fee that Chongqing cab drivers pay to their companies will be reduced by 70 yuan daily, from its current 440 yuan.

The municipal government will also release an extra 100,000 cubic meters of CNG daily to handle the shortage, he said. Unlicensed cab drivers will be penalized to protect the interests of licensed drivers.

Taxi companies promised to repay the loss, and drivers will be exempted from their Monday fees, a move they hope will return the fleet to work.

The government is still considering whether direct supervision of the companies or legislating income will be the best move.

Beijing's taxi industry performs well

Compared to Chongqing, the taxi industry of Beijing is doing much better. The strike in Chongqing had little impact on the capital.

"Local policy is favorable to drivers—not only in oil subsidy, but in other benefits. The municipal government has also done a lot to punish unlicensed taxi drivers," Gong Haifeng, director of Shouqi Taxi Corporation, said.

Beijing's companies have an elaborate appeal system through which drivers can work to resolve disputes. The companies are obligated to follow all government taxi regulation policies, Gong said.



Century-old portrait of last empress dowager unveiled

A 104-year-old painting of Cixi, the last empress dowager of the Qing Dynasty, went on display in the Summer Palace this Tuesday after a yearlong restoration effort.

The picture was painted by Dutchman Hubert Vos, who was famous for painting many nobles, including the queen of the Netherlands, king of North Korea and a Russian ambassador. Vos was also the first Western man to paint Cixi.

In 1905, he was invited to come to China to paint the portrait of an important person. Not until he reached in China did he learn the person was Cixi. The empress dowager, then in her 70s, was portrayed as a middle-aged lady.

The nonrepresentational portrait was originally more close to reality, but Cixi demanded he modify it when she saw the picture. Cixi forced Vos to remove the shadow around the face, enlarge the eyes and thicken the lips. The final version of the portrait was brighter, and Cixi looked younger.

The head of the cultural relics department in the Summer Palace said the portrait reflects the aesthetic standards of that time. People used to think shadow on the face was ominous. Chinese people also did not

accept realistic painting styles.

Over the ages, the painting was affected by humidity and yellowing. The canvas sagged and pigments dropped from parts of it. Many foreign restoration masters hoped to cooperate with China to renovate the portrait. Dutch restoration professors only recently picked back up the collaboration that began a century ago.

The restoration of the 2.4-by-1.4-meter portrait began last year. After several months of analysis and confirmation of the materials and the pigments, restoration ended this week.

(By Zheng Lu)

Controversial ad exposes industrial secret



By Huang Daohen

Did the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) initially invent and promote the notorious animal feed additive that has caused a string of melamine-tainted food scares? New evidence found by netizens, a nine-year-old advertisement for animal feed additives, has cast that shadow of the melamine scandal on the nation's top academic institute.

Who was the first to create the technology that produced melamine-contained animal feed additives? How did feed producers start using what has now become their open secret? People have become more suspicious since the contamination took on new urgency when melamine was discovered in eggs in Hong Kong and other major cities this week.



Suspicious have grown since melamine was discovered in eggs in Hong Kong and Hangzhou this week.

IC Photo

Ad fingers CAS

Gao Yinxian, a retired professor at the CAS Graduate School, the nation's top academic institute, never imagined he would become famous in his 60s for appearing on an advertisement nine years ago.

The ad, originally placed on the Internet in 1999 in the name of the CAS, is about Gao's invention: an animal feed additive called DH protein feed additive.

The ad said that the technology can be used to manufacture "high-protein feed using organic nitrogen and special catalysts." This has raised suspicion that the additive it advertises is that now known as the "kidney stone chemical": melamine.

A netizen named Ao Mai Gao found the ad on September 12 while searching for information about melamine. He posted the ad to a Chinese forum under the heading, "Did the CAS invent melamine?" The post spread like wildfire across Chinese Web sites.

"If it is true, then the CAS is the source of melamine-tainted food throughout the country," Ao said in the post.

Gao's life has since been rocked by numerous calls and media interviews. "I knew this was not over yet, and here you (media) come again," Gao said when he met with *Beijing Today* reporters on Tuesday.

Now director of the Office of Retired People at the CAS Graduate School, he said he was temporarily suspended from duty when the CAS received complaints about the melamine-linked ad, but resumed work after an investigation launched by the academy found that his technology had nothing to do with the chemical.

Jiang Xiezhu, spokesman for the CAS, told a press conference

last Saturday that the academy researched the advertised technology, "but found it is in no way producing melamine," he said.

Jiang explained that the temperature required for the technology is within 100 degrees Celsius, far below the 400-degree temperature needed to make melamine. The technology uses organic nitrogen with a catalyst to synthesize feed containing high-levels of protein, he said.

Referring to the controversial ad, Gao said he had no idea who released it. Gao said the ad first appeared on a Web site called China Business Information Web in 1999 with his name and telephone number. "For many years, no one called before the exposure of the melamine incident," he said. The ad was withdrawn in 2000 when he first discovered it.

However, Gao said the technology was real and research on feed additives was popular in the 1990s. The CAS also launched an Appliance Technology Institute for research in 1994 and Gao was one of the former directors. The institute was canceled in 2001 due to lack of capital and the technology was never sold, he said.

Insiders doubt the CAS

Though there is no information about the chemical make-up of the additive, and the investigation carried out by the CAS found no link to the melamine scandal, Chen Junshi, a research fellow at a food safety research institution, said in his recent post that doubts remain and the academy should not rush to deny the dispute.

Chen said though facts about the reaction temperature given by the CAS seem sound, technology is not static and it constantly updates and improves. "Who can guaran-



One of the advertisements found by netizens was posted online.

tee that modern technology has not solved the temperature problem of the 1990s?" he said.

Chen also doubted that the technology would have been sold to feed producers without any oversight. If the technology was mature, then even a part-time worker could have sold it outside the institute for good money. The institute had many full-time technical staff before it closed.

He suggested an outside party should conduct its own investigation.

An open secret

While the CAS is entangled in melamine-linked scandal and netizens are criticizing those who invented the tainted feed additive, the routine of adding illicit substances into animal feed has long been an open secret in the feed industry, according to insiders.

Adding fake protein additive – "protein essence," the main ingredient of which is melamine scrap – into feed has been common for at least five years, an official sur-

named Ma at the Suzhou Anying Biotechnology Company said.

The Suzhou-based company is known for the US pet poisoning incident last year when the FDA found that exported pet food was contaminated with melamine. It was the first time the use of melamine additive by the feed industry was exposed.

Ma said the incident dealt a crushing blow to his company, and they have since been more careful to choose trustworthy feed suppliers. Ma, however, refused to comment on media reports that the company purchased melamine scrap in 2004.

What's the worse, Ma said that the scope of the industrial secret may have affected most breeding industries, including those in livestock and marine life. The damage radius is growing, he said.

Ma said the reason for the secret was simple: domestic manufacturers of melamine needed to dispose of waste melamine scrap because of environmental laws.

Proper disposal is expensive, so they preferred to sell off their scrap at a low price.

Due to a price hike in raw materials, feed additive makers who usually used protein from ground animal parts, soy and other sources to produce actual protein additives, turned to select a low-cost substitute.

Melamine's chemical properties boost the apparent presence of protein in food, so it was an obvious choice, Ma said.

Currently, Ma said the fish feed industry may be using melamine most heavily, as aquatic feed requires a very high protein count.

Gov continues its crusade

Those who deliberately added melamine to animal feed will be severely punished by the government, Wang Zhicai, director of the animal husbandry and livestock bureau at the Agriculture Ministry, said.

"It is illegal for any individual or any enterprise to add melamine into feed, and we will crack down uncompromisingly on its use," Wang told a recent press conference in Beijing.

The ministry said over the weekend that they had confiscated and destroyed more than 3,600 tons of animal feed tainted with melamine. It had also closed 238 feed makers.

Wang said that the animal feed supply was largely safe and the quality of feed had improved in recent years.

However, Ma, the Suzhou feed maker, said lack of regulation in which raw materials are purchased by the feed industry remains the real problem. "We hope the authorities will come up with a comprehensive regulation system with laws that can be applied across the board," he said.



Change has come to America

Barack Obama elected as US's first black president

"The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even one term, but America: I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there," US President-elect Barack Obama said at a huge rally in Chicago, Illinois Tuesday night until early Wednesday morning, that change has come to America.

The weight of the world has begun to bear down on Barack Obama's shoulders as the president-elect turned from an epic campaign towards the challenges ahead.

Obama will become the US's first black president after a record turnout propelled the Democratic candidate to emphatic victories in a series of battleground states.

Final counting showed that Obama won 52 percent of the 133 million votes, giving him a six-point lead in the popular vote and a thumping majority in the Electoral College over Republican contender John McCain.

"The road ahead will be long, our climb will be steep," Obama told a vast crowd in Chicago as he invoked a new spirit of patriotism. "We may not get there in one year or even one term, but America: I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you, we as a people will get there."

Less than 24 hours later, he was assembling key components of his administration. Rahm Emanuel, a hard-charging congressman and former adviser to President Bill Clinton, was offered the post of White House Chief-of-Staff. Obama also set up a 15-member advisory board for the 76-day transition period, headed by John Podesta, who served as chief-of-staff under Clinton, and his longstanding aides Pete Rouse and Valerie Jarrett.

A series of rapid-fire announcements of Obama's economic and national security teams are expected over the coming days. He has recognized that with economic crisis at home and unfinished wars abroad, he must "hit the ground running."

Having promised to make bipartisan appointments, Obama may ask Robert Gates to stay on at the Pentagon. Colin Powell, the former Secretary of State, is tipped for a senior role, possibly defense or education.

Obama began his first day as President-elect having breakfast with his daughters, a rare occurrence during his 21-month campaign. He has yet to decide when to move his family from Chicago or to choose a school. He has, however, promised Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, a puppy.

(The Times)



Obama finally becomes America's first black president on Tuesday night.

Xinhua Photo

Americans in Beijing cheer Obama's triumph

By Jackie Zhang

When Barack Obama appeared in Grant Park, Chicago to make his victory speech Wednesday noon Beijing time, everyone gathered in the banquet hall of Renaissance Beijing Capital Hotel cheered wildly. Some even wept from the excitement.

Hundreds of Americans came to the hotel to watch the results of the US Presidential Election, an event organized by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham). From the end of last month, Americans including AmCham members and employees of its member-companies began registering for the event.

Two big TV screens were installed in the room and tuned into CNN's live election coverage. Another room was decorated like a voting booth in which guests could take part in mock voting presumably in San Francisco, California. The votes for president were tallied as soon as they were cast.

People milled around the whole morning, waiting for election results from the US. People burst out in cheers when Obama's picture and the final results came on screen.

"I've waited for this moment for a long time. The victory of Obama means quite a lot," Viva Vinson, an African-American, said,

almost bursting into tears at the outcome of the election. "It marks a great change not only for US, but also for the world. In the US, most of the history is about white people. But now Obama makes a change. I believe there will be more changes in the future."

"It doesn't really matter the color of skin, race or religion. The success of Obama shows that the world is united," Keith Williams, Vinson's friend said. "Obama's father was born and raised in a small village in Kenya. He had lived in Indonesia for a few years with his mother. I know that people in Kenya also celebrate his victory."



Americans living and working in Beijing came to watch the election Tuesday.

Photos by Guan Xin

FM: China to work with US to push forward ties

China is ready to work with the US to push forward their bilateral constructive and cooperative relationship, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said Wednesday.

Qin made the remarks when asked to comment on Barack Obama's election as President of the US and on Joe Biden's election as vice president.

Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao earlier Wednesday sent messages to con-

gratulate Obama on his election, and Vice President Xi Jinping extended congratulations to Biden.

Hu noted in his congratulatory message, Qin said, "China and the US share broad common interests and important responsibilities on a wide range of major issues concerning the well-being of humanity. To grow long-term, healthy and stable China-US relations serves the fundamental interests of our countries and peoples and is of great significance

to the maintenance and promotion of peace, stability and development in the world."

"China is ready to work with the US to continuously strengthen dialogue, exchanges and cooperation in various fields and enhance mutual understanding and trust on the basis of the three Sino-US Joint Communiqués, with a view to pushing forward the bilateral relationship and bringing greater benefits to the people of the two countries," Qin said. (Agencies)

How far away from the White House is a Chinese?

By Zheng Lu

As the curtain fell on the US presidential race, many Chinese who saw the spectacular election results on TV shared their reflections on major Chinese forums.

Although Barack Obama seems to have few things in common with the Chinese, people have been inspired by his success. Many congratulated Obama and celebrated his win online. "For the first time, people elected a black president in a country in which the majority is white. That is something really worthy celebrating," a netizen named "Love you forever" said.

"Now that Obama, a person of color, has made it, when will an American Chinese descent be elected US president?" he asked.

"It finally established real racial equality in the US," another netizen said, analyzing how colored people have been treated and accepted into mainstream society throughout the country's history. He thought it was a gradual process that included the entry into the political world of African-Americans such as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her predecessor Colin Powell.

The netizen named some overseas Chinese renowned in the West, such as Zhao Xiaolan, but as he pointed out, "no people of Chinese descent have ever penetrated the core of US politics." He considers Obama a model to show that one day an ethnic Chinese person can become US president.

One of the posts said no American Chinese people have come close to Obama's achievement because they have a lifestyle that gets in the way of total integration into US society. "Unlike the blacks, American Chinese people tend to hold close their native culture and traditions; they still speak Chinese and cook Chinese food and refuse to blend with local culture," it said.

Kaixin001.com, a Chinese social networking Web site, conducted a survey titled "What is your reaction to the election of the first black president in US history?" It logged in at least 4,600 respondents in an hour. According to the results, over one-third of voters chose the option, "I hope one day an American Chinese could be elected president as well."

Gov to tax profits on gamers' virtual goods

By Huang Daohen

The government will impose a 20 percent personal income tax on profit from virtual money, the State Administration of Taxation announced.

The tax specifically targets traders and operations that buy virtual currency with the intent to sell it at a mark-up, such as account sellers in online games. The tax will also affect resellers in the region who trade in virtual currencies for instant messaging services and Web portals.

A poll by Chinese online portal Sina.com indicates that 70 percent of 3,000 respondents voted against the new tax, and many questioned how total property would be evaluated.

"Many gamers are classmates or friends

in real life, so most won't have credentials when trading virtual money," Zhao Jian, a local online game player, said. "It's difficult to prove the original value of virtual currency."

Taxation officials have been granted the right to judge the value of a particular virtual currency if an individual cannot provide proof of its original price.

Some, however, believe that the new tax will protect their online property rights and help guard from identity theft.

Beijing tax officials declined to explain how they would implement the vaguely-worded ruling, but said detailed regulations would be announced next Monday.

However, analysts and gamers said the attempt to tax virtual currency trade would fare

no better than the previous effort to ban it.

"This is not the first time China has tried to regulate the blurry line between virtual and real-world economies. It's a backtracking on a previous ruling," Li Rui, an official at Mop.com, said.

Last year, the government attempted a failed crackdown on virtual currencies, forbidding the use of virtual money for the purchase of real items.

Li said the key point is how to make it work. "We've seen that virtual economies can be affected by real-world financial turmoil, but this new proposal raises the question of whether authorities can use real methods to accurately track and tax virtual sales on a massive scale," Li added.

PepsiCo to invest \$1 bln

Thought a financial crisis plagues the world, PepsiCo declared it will invest US \$1 billion to develop its China market.

Indra K. Nooyi, chairman and CEO of PepsiCo, said that although the global economy is in recession, China remains Pepsi's largest overseas market that is still seeing rapid growth. The company said China plays a significant role in its development strategy.

The US \$1 billion (6.8 billion yuan) will be invested in the central and western regions of the country, and it will be used to expand the local research and development organizations, strengthen sales ability, brand building and develop new products for Chinese consumers. PepsiCo said it will enhance its efforts to promote sustainable environmental development. The sum marks PepsiCo's largest China investment of the last 30 years.

Last month, PepsiCo announced it will cut 3,300 workers and close six plants around the world because of economic depression. Some media reports connected the investment with Coca Cola. According to these reports, PepsiCo is under pressure from Coca Cola's recent acquisition of Huiyuan, the largest Chinese beverage brand. (By Venus Lee)

Photovoice calls for safer roads

By Zheng Lu

Bare electric cables on the road, a lack of signs in school zones and obstacles on the sidewalk are common problems in cities the world over. But for children, those problems can become serious hazards on their way to school or back home. Photos submitted by thousands of students are bringing these and more problems to focus.

Last Thursday, a photo exhibition called Photovoice, sponsored by Safe Kids China and FedEx Express, was held at Children's Center in Haidian. The display was part of Safe Kids' Walk This Way program, which aims to reduce injury to children on the road.

Some photos came from the Philippines and India, but most were shot by students from Shanghai and Beijing. The goal is to help children learn about road conditions, rules and how to become safer pedestrians.

Sun Xin, the vice deputy of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said unsafe road conditions are the second most frequent cause of child deaths. "Every three minutes a child dies because of a traffic injury," he said.

Some children who came to watch the photos left messages to the organizers expressing their feelings and comments.

"The vendors who take up space outside our school sometimes block us from taking the sidewalk. We have to walk with the cars or we can't get past," a fourth grade student from Haidian District said.

Survey shows growth in global passenger self-service

Self-service is becoming the norm for passengers from Atlanta to Mumbai, according to a survey conducted by SITA, an IT solutions provider to airlines and airports.

The survey takes an in-depth look at the attitudes and habits of a representative sample of the 232 million passengers. Its data were extracted from interviews with 2,143 passengers conducted at the departure gates earlier this year.

"This survey confirms that self-service is here to stay with potential for truly explosive growth in emerging markets. In China, meeting the challenges of the current 8.1 percent annual capacity growth rate will be facilitated by putting self-booking and check-in in the hands of the passengers," C.B. Tan, SITA country director, China, said.

(By Huang Daohen)

Aircraft maker wins 1st foreign order at airshow



China's biggest commercial aircraft maker landed its first foreign order Tuesday at Airshow China in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province. General Electric announced its plane-leasing arm would purchase at least five of the company's new regional jets. CFP Photo

Boat show aims to sell yachts in the north

By Wang Yu

The Beijing International Boat and Marina Development Show opens November 20 at the New China International Exhibition Centre. The show is the first exhibition organized by the cruise industry in the capital.

The exhibition will run for three days and is part of a national effort to promote China's boating industry, which continues to lag behind Europe and the Americas.

The show, hosted by IIR Exhibitions (Institute for International Research), is also supported by China's Maritime Safety Administration, China Cruises and Yacht Industry Association (CCYIA) and the China Water Sport Administration.

It shares resources with the Monaco Yacht Show and Abu Dhabi Yacht Show. Organizers hope it will attract government officials, policy makers, manufacturers and investors.

With its half a million millionaires, China is the third largest consumer of luxury goods. However, the Chinese boating industry still faces problems both up and downstream.

Most of the domestic yacht companies'

designs lack originality, and some are cooperating with foreign manufacturers to learn. "There are more than 260 yacht manufacturers in the country, and most are based in the south. However, the gross output value of these companies is less than that of a single foreign label," Liu Dabing, general manager of Qingdao Water Wish Boat Manufacturing, said.

The financial crisis has hit domestic manufacturers hard, as most survive on an export-driven model. "Though exports will still be our primary source of income, I think we need to focus on developing the domestic boating market and make long-term plans," Liu said.

After-sale services are outdated and lack the trained professionals needed to improve them. A customer who has enough money easily can buy a yacht, but finding a marina at which to dock it is another matter. The boating club system is also far from mature.

China's yacht consumers fall into two groups: artificial persons and individuals. The former are corporations who buy yachts to start a travel business or

to help to promote their real estate projects. Individual customers are mostly from the Pearl River Delta and Yangtze River Delta areas.

"Unlike in foreign countries, about 70 percent of these individual buyers use their boats as a place for business talk. The closed cabin is quiet and shows the owner's taste. The ones actually involved in cruise sports are usually customers who have lived abroad," said Tao Jianping, marketing director of SpeedoMarine, a yacht agent that deals with many foreign brands.

Many problems, such as whether a boating base can be built on private capital and who holds the property rights, hold back the development of China's yacht industry and expose gaps in policy. "Getting a boating license in China is harder than in foreign countries, and because of the lack of a universal policy, one cannot navigate outside the area in which he registered," Tao said.

Industry insiders look to the new Yacht Safety Administration Rules which take effect at the start of next year as a breakthrough though the rules still need improvement.

Teaching, a high-risk job?



"May teacher rest in peace" is written on a condolence card.

By Jin Zhu

On October 4, a senior high school student in Suzhou, Shanxi Province, killed his teacher in class even though he did not feel any enmity towards his victim. He just hated teachers and schools in general.

On October 21, a junior high school student in Jinyun, Zhejiang Province, strangled his female teacher with a cord and pushed her off a cliff to prevent the teacher from visiting his parents.

On October 28, an undergraduate student at Beijing's China University of Political Science (CUPSL) and Law barged into a law professor's class and killed him, because the man believed the professor had an improper relationship with his girlfriend.

Conflicts between students and teachers are leading to murder. Does this mean teaching is becoming a high-risk job?

Conflict between students and teachers

Traditional Chinese virtue honors teachers and reveres their teachings. As an old saying goes, "He who teaches me for one day is my father for life."

Yang Jie, a 26-year-old English teacher from No 138 Middle School in Beijing, still remembers her first day as a student. "I was told by my mother to do what my teachers asked me to do," she said. "At the time, I was always scared when my parents were asked to come to school and speak with my teachers."

But now, something has been changed, she said. "A teacher's status has sunk. Once a conflict erupts between teachers and students, no matter who is at fault, teachers end up punished by the school," Yang said. "Back-stabbing and insults against teachers happen in our school almost every day."

According to a recent online poll by Tianya.cn, shortly after the murder case in the CUPSL, 26.8 percent of netizens thought students no longer had any respect for their teachers, and 33.7 percent believed it was necessary to use violence in self-defense against the risks brought by teaching.

Meanwhile, teachers appear to be facing a crisis of trust among students. In the survey, 34.8 percent of netizens said they have a close and friendly relationship with their teachers, while 65.2 percent said their relationship with their teachers are strained and even hostile.

The study said the top complaints against teachers were putting too much pressure on studying, forcing students to accept teachers' personal points of view and conducting classes in a dictatorial manner.

Intensified conflict cause murders

Shortly after the murder in Jinyun occurred, the assailant's diary, now called the "Death Diary," was found. "I am a bad student and hate teachers and school so much - I want to vent and extract revenge," the student said in an entry written before the murder.

Many people had no idea tension was already heightening between students and teachers before the three murder cases happened.

"When the teacher murder cases happened, people realized



Students mourn Cheng with flowers at the CUPSL crime scene.

CFP Photos



Teachers and students mourn for Cheng at the CUPSL campus.

that good relations between teachers and students are very important. Sometimes, it is even more important than education itself," Sun Yunxiao, deputy director at the China Youth and Children Research Center, said.

The rise of conflict

China seems to have put excessive emphasis on formal education, which has put a strain on students' mental health. But in

other areas of their life, young Chinese are used to being coddled by parents and other relatives.

Zheng Xinrong, a professor at Beijing Normal University's Education Department, said the family's extreme protectiveness gives students permission to misbehave, secured in the knowledge that they have backing.

The Ministry of Education has taken note. A day before

the CUPSL murder, Wang Dinghua, deputy director of the Ministry of Education's Fundamental Education Department, said teachers are allowed to hand out punishments to students provided they do not resort to corporal punishment.

But exactly what kinds of punishments are allowed is unclear. "Many students claim they have received corporal punishments from their teachers. Since there are no specific guidelines for these punishments, squabbles between teachers and students have broken out," Yang said.

As a consumerist lifestyle takes a firmer grip on China, relations between teachers and students are seen as business engagements. Many students believed they are clients of their teachers. "To some degree, teaching has become a kind of service instead of the traditional meaning of education," Zheng said. "Seen from this point of view, it is not surprising that students have no respect for their teachers."

As for teachers, with the greater demand for teachers due

to the expansion of higher education, unqualified teachers have been accepted into the profession. "Improper or unethical teaching methods will certainly lead to strained relations between teachers and students," she said.

How do we protect teachers?

Sun Yunxiao said that aside from lessons in preserving mental health currently being taught, a self-contained system for preventing crises needs to be set up. He suggested that each class or campus dormitory have a supervisor who will monitor student's mental health and help those who are experiencing undue stress.

Zheng, meanwhile, said the main way to protect teachers from injuries is to emphasize to students the value of life. "The teacher murder cases have revealed a failure of schools to instill basic values, such as the fact that life is sacred," she said. "It is necessary to increase lessons in schools on life-coping skills and to stress peaceful and rational ways of resolving conflict."

'Music is the mirror of my soul'

German cosmic music pioneer plays masterpiece in Beijing



Photo provided by Goethe-Institute China

By He Jianwei

Last Saturday night, Manuel Gottsching, 56, played his masterpiece E2-E4 at Goethe-Institute China's 20th anniversary party at the 798 Art District. E2-E4, released in 1981, has been influential in the development of house music.

Among the legends of the German Cosmic Music genre, no name is more revered than Gottsching's. As a multi-instrumentalist, composer and experimentalist, Gottsching's style influenced many artists in the post-Eno ambient and New Age scenes in the 1980s and 1990s.

Mixing is what he does

Gottsching's musical history began with the Steeplechase Blues Band, where he played for fun. One of the most important bands he joined was Ash Ra Tempel (ART), one of the most famous German groups of the 1970s. It was a three-man band in a traditional lineup, including drums, bass and guitar.

"The music in our band is a mixture, including classical music, rock, jazz, blues and folk music. It is the same as the name of our band," Gottsching said. They did not want a name in English or German, so they used three languages. "Ash is an English word. Ra, an Egyptian word, means Sun God. And Tempel is a German word," he said.

In late-1960s Germany, the US student protest and hippie culture had crossed the ocean on the continent. Musically, British and American pop and rock were dominant. "But there were a few bands in Germany that tried to do crazy experiments," Gottsching said.

ART made its own experiments. The members used classic orchestral instruments, such as organs, in their albums. "We tried different instruments in our

albums. In the second album, we added a keyboard," he said.

Less rock and more electronic

In the middle of the 1970s, when ART was dissolved, Gottsching pursued solo work. His music became less rock and more electronic.

The influence of electronic equipment in producing music grew rapidly in those days. "I was fascinated by these sounds, but even more, I was addicted to the idea of sequencing those sounds into continuous musical compositions," he said.

His two albums *New Age of Earth* and *Blackouts* are considered the first electronic new age albums. But "when we released *New Age of Earth*, the name of 'new age' music did not exist. The term appeared at the end of the 1970s and at the beginning of the 1980s," he said.

Emotional and intellectual

Gottsching believes music has two parts—the emotional and the intellectual. His inspiration is music itself. "When I play an instrument, I feel it. Then I play again until I have the right feeling," he said.

The structure of music is the key element in his music. Gottsching admitted that the German language's stringent grammar and the logic in Germans' thinking have influenced his compositions.

He often listens to classic music, especially the Baroque musicians' works. "Classic elements have become part of my soul," he said.

With new technology applied in musical composition, Gottsching said it really helps musicians to record sound, but "good music does not depend on what new technology you use. Good music always depends on a musician's imagination. New technology only brings new possibilities to music," he said.

Koreans in China feel sting of Won's plunge

By Han Manman

The damaging effects of the current financial turmoil continue to spread around the world, especially among Koreans. The sharp plunge of the Korean won against the US dollar amid the continuing financial meltdown is painfully felt by Koreans living in China.

Situation getting worse

"Things are really difficult now. If the situation continues, I'm afraid more Korean companies will be going bankrupt," said Kim Heechul, president of the Korean Community in China (KCC), summing up the difficulties faced by Korean industries here.

In early September, 10 Chinese yuan (US \$1.46), the minimum taxi

fare in Beijing, was equivalent to 170 Korean won. Now, just two months later, that exchange is approaching 220 won. That jump, however, is still considered "modest," compared with the exchange rate early this year when 10 Chinese yuan was 120 won.

"I don't encash my Korean money, because by doing so, I automatically lose out," Yun Jae Cheol, a Korean living in Beijing, said. "But I don't know how long I can get by without doing it." Many Koreans in China share his mindset.

Students tighten belts

With the won's drop, Korean students have had to watch their spendings. Some on short-term language courses have chosen to return to Korea. Those in degree programs

are trying hard to make ends meet.

"It's very stressful. I have to pay 4.6 million won for tuition now, compared with 3.1 million won last year. My tuition fees rose 50 percent," Lee Sung, a Korean student at the Beijing Culture University, said. "Since the world financial crisis started, the first thing I do after I wake up everyday is to check the exchange rate online. My classmates do the same."

"When I meet with friends, we talk about topics we never discussed before, like how to save money. We cannot ask for more money from our parents since they also feel the pinch in Korea. Some of my friends are considering moving to cheaper apartments," he said.

But Sung said he will not give up his studies here and go back to Korea, as life in China is still cheaper than in Korea.

Businessmen hit hard

Korean restaurants were among the first industries to be hit hard as they heavily rely on Korean customers.

According to *The Korea Times*, many Korean restaurants in Wangjing have seen customer turnout drop by 50 to 70 percent. Some have already put up "for sale" notices.

A Chinese employee at the Wangjing branch of Hannashan restaurant said the number of customers has dropped by 50 percent, and that most of their customers

now are Chinese.

Other industries also talk about tough times. Bae Byeong Hyeok, who is in the steel business, said the won's plunge has had a big influence on his company. "Many Korean companies buy Chinese steel. I buy 5,000 tons of Chinese steel every month," but said, "It's hard for me to buy the same volume as months before."

Hyeok, however, remains hopeful. He said the won's plunge has not been as serious as that of the 1997 Asian financial crisis. "I don't think we Koreans are in a serious financial crisis, we are just experiencing some troubles," he said.

According to Beijing TV, there were over 80,000 Koreans living in China as of August.



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Aussies fueled to stimulate culture and education exchanges

By Zhao Hongyi

Professor Wang Guofu did not expect his whole life would be dedicated to the study of Australia, and neither did he expect to receive a medal for his lifetime achievement from the Australia-China Council last week.

In 1979, Wang was one of the "Gang of Nine" – the first group of Chinese scholars to study in Australia after 1949, thanks to the support of the Australian government and the Australia-China Council.

After returning to China in 1982, Professor Wang taught English and became Dean of the foreign languages department of Suzhou University. In 1991, he founded the Australian Studies Center at the university, doing linguistic and literature projects to bridge the two countries and two cultures.

Wang was not alone. After all members of the "Gang of Nine" returned to China, they set up six Australian study centers through-



Colin Giles (left), President of Nokia China, Australian Ambassador Geoff Raby (middle), and Edward Smith of ACAA, at the ACAA gala dinner celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Australia-China Council.

Photo provided by ACAA

out China and today, 24 Chinese universities have similar centers, according to Dr Claire Roberts, deputy chair of the council.

"Our purpose is to support culture and

education exchanges between China and Australia," Professor Mark Wainwright, chair of the council, said at their 30th anniversary gala dinner last Saturday in Beijing.

Founded in 1978, the council is a government-funded organization dedicated to supporting programs to promote people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. This includes the introduction of Australian English, the translation of Australian literature and the study of Australia's Aboriginal culture. But today, its support has gone beyond the traditional concept of culture and education to a more diversified range of fields like sports, architecture, contemporary art and medical research.

"We used to focus on academic research but now concentrate more on supporting young people in a range of disciplines, including studying in Australia," Wainwright told reporters. "We don't have the same number

of scholarships as the British Council, for example, but remember the cost of studying and living in Australia is much lower."

On the new phase of their journey, the council joins hands with a new partner – the Australia-China Alumni Association, which was established earlier this year in Beijing.

Even though it is young, the alumni association aims to develop a vast network of people in China with an Australian educational background, and enhance career opportunities for these alumni, Karen Surmon, development director of the association, said.

So far, the association has put together an impressive list of members, including John Fitzgerald, China representative of the Ford Foundation in Beijing; Colin Giles, President of Nokia China; and Chen Xiaodong, chief operating officer of the Intime Department Store Group.

British youth meet children of migrant workers

By Jackie Zhang

It was the first time children of migrant workers at Anmin Primary School had a chance to meet, talk, and play with foreigners. Over 40 young people from Britain visited the school Wednesday afternoon to join a party with the primary school students.

This group of British children was part of a team of 100 youngsters who came to China through the UK-China 400 Program, an Exchange of Future Leaders program organized by the British Council and the China Youth Federation.

From 2008 to 2010, 400 young people from each country will undertake a 10-day

exchange visit. The program aims to develop their understanding and skills in youth and community development; political and business leadership; environment and healthy lifestyle; and creativity and cultural innovation through meeting with leaders, experts and practitioners in these areas.

The British students, who were divided into two groups, stayed in Beijing for two days. While one group visited Anmin Primary School, the other visited a school for disabled children.

Established five years ago, Anmin Primary school is a private school specially for the children of migrant workers in

Beijing. Before the exchange students' visit, the children never had an opportunity to mingle with foreigners. "The event was good for the children to broaden their views and to practice English," Li Bingying, headmaster of the school, said.

The children enthusiastically prepared for the meeting with their British guests. "They suggested we add traditional Chinese games to the party, including playing shuttlecock, diabolo and iron hoop," Li said.

Zhang Xinjing, 11, one of Anmin's students, said she was thrilled by the British students' visit. "I taught them how to play shuttlecock. But it may have been a little

difficult for them. At first, they tried to play with their feet, but they eventually played with their hands," she said.

"Zhang was quite good at playing shuttlecock," David Lewis, leader of the British group, said. When he was about to leave after the party finished, the children ran to him and hugged with him.

"I'm quite impressed with the smiles on the children's faces. They are quite warm. I was surprised that some of the children could speak really good English. I like the trip, since I learned how to play Chinese games and some handcraft skills like papercutting," Jack Taylor, another British student, said.

French business school seeks more Chinese students

By Zhang Dongya

"More Chinese students seek opportunities to study overseas, and the number bound for France, is rising. Last year, more than 9,000 Chinese students acquired French visas, and I guess it will surpass 10,000 this year," Jean-Francois Vergnaud, an official at the French Embassy in charge of higher education, said at the "2008 China Forum."

ESSEC Business School, founded in 1907 and ranked 7th in the business school list of

Wall Street Journal last year, sponsored the forum Thursday morning.

Chinese students made up the second biggest group of international students at ESSEC Business School. "Every year, there will be about 3,000 foreign students granted with a scholarship. This includes Chinese students," Vergnaud said.

Zhu Jian, who graduated from ESSEC Business School two years ago, is now the North China Clinical Manager and China

Sales Administration Manager of a French company called BioMerieux. "The most important reason why I chose ESSEC is it has close links with the business world, and gives graduates better work opportunities. I think it is also the main reason other students came to ESSEC to study," Zhu said.

Because of the current financial crisis, prospective students were concerned about payment policies. Vergnaud said the school's payment policies have not changed, including

its visa application procedure.

"Also, the scholarship will not be reduced, since it comes from many sources including the government and enterprises," Pierre Tapie, dean and president of ESSEC Business School, said at the forum.

ESSEC Business School has had collaborative programs with Chinese universities since 1985. These institutions include Beijing University's Guanghua School of Management, Fudan University and Tongji University.



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Aussie meat and wine delivered to your doorstep

By Zhang Dongya

For Danielle Delaney, an Australian who moved to Shanghai eight months ago, it is routine to order Australian beef, lamb, meat pies and wine from elders.com.cn. "It is very convenient and they take special orders," she said of the Shanghai-based company Elders China Trading Company (ECTC).

It is not just Aussies like Danielle who order food from Down Under. "I have a small baby, and in the mother group, I know many mothers from Hong Kong, Japan and European countries who order Australian meat from the Internet," she said.

Elders, an online company

that began in China 2004, brings Australian products to the country. As proof that their meat products, in particular, are safe, they can provide customers with a Hygiene Certificate and a Hygiene Inspection Report.

"Australia is known as the country whose meat has never been tainted by BSE or mad cow disease, which guarantees it is safe," Tomomi Ueda, the company's Internet sales representative told *Beijing Today* in an email. "They (customers) choose us mostly because our meat is air freighted from the best suppliers in Australia and also because Elders doesn't freeze meat – only

a few items are frozen for sanitation reasons," she added.

Two years ago, Elders set up offices and home delivery services in Shanghai, Beijing and Shenzhen. But it also delivers to other areas in China for free.

"Since most customers like to get the meat in pieces, all the meats are processed at the headquarters in Shanghai before being delivered to other places," Li Leilei, the sales manager in Beijing, said. She said that delivery takes one day for clients in Shanghai and two to three days for people in other locations. This month, Elders will begin its wine delivery service in Beijing.

An increasing number of Chinese people have developed a taste for Australian meat, the company said. "It is hard to say exactly how big this group is, about 10 percent of our customers maybe," Ueda said.

The manager, Li, said most Chinese customers in Beijing are those who have lived overseas and have gotten used to Western food. Another group, those who are well-off and lead a more lavish lifestyle, go to them instead of local supermarkets, Li said.

Market forces are also a reason for Elders's popularity among locals. "One of the reasons is that the price of domestic meat

is steadily rising, especially beef. Under present prices, the price difference between the domestic and the Australian market is 10 to 15 percent, which is attracting more locals," Li said.

"There are other problems in the domestic meat market. Imported meats are weighed before they are frozen, while locally produced meat is weighed frozen and loses mass by the time it gets to the chopping board," she said.

Elders is also involved in supplying food to hotels and restaurants, but its online shop is clearly becoming a significant aspect of the business.



The foreign students at the long march's starting line.

Photo by Venus Lee

Long march in the suburbs

By Venus Lee

Although the Olympic Games are over, Beijingers' enthusiasm for sport has remained. Last Saturday, the Beijing International Long Walk Carnival 2008, organized by China Communist Youth League Beijing Committee and the People's Government of Changping District, was held at Shisanling reservoir.

"The activity provided the participants a chance to view the nice autumn scenery and the new structural development in Changping District, not to men-

tion supporting public fitness programs by walking," Fang Li, deputy secretary of China Communist Youth League Beijing Committee, said.

It was a bit chilly that Saturday morning, but thousands of participants and volunteers enthusiastically warmed up before the walk began at 9:30 am. At 18 kilometers long, the route was no joke, even taking participants along the huge reservoir.

During the walk, Alfredo Fornanis, a Cuban student who participated said: "The air in the

suburbs is fresher than downtown ... In my country, no such activity is organized by the government as far as I know. This is new to me."

"There are more people than I expected. This is a special experience different from that of visiting places of historical interest. Through this kind of activity, I can know more about the real Beijing. I can see in person what the current situation of Beijing's suburbs is," Yoon Keun Kim, a Korean manager, said.

The long walk, however, was

a huge challenge to the stamina and willpower of some participants. It took three to four hours to complete the course and some gave up along the way.

Yang Jun, a retiree who made it to the finish line, said: "Done! Done! I am exhausted, but I insisted on finishing it. I love this simple aerobic exercise and I challenged myself. Although the wind is strong today, the falling leaves make the scenery more appealing." For his endurance, he was awarded a big red apple.

Event

Talk: China's Current Youth Problems

Zong Chunshan is the director of the Beijing Youth Law and Psychology Consultancy Center and founder of the Youth Self-protection Education Organization. Zong will share with us his experience of working on youth education, crime and health.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 12, 7:30-9:30pm

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Basically Beethoven: A musical evening for free

Prepare for an evening of musical delights hosted by the finely tuned Paul Eldon. The evening's program features performances by Beijing favorites The Soul Sisters and The Heavy Breathers. Join in with your instrument or simply listen and enjoy.

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 13, 7:30 pm

Tel: 6586 9507

Yin Yu Tang: the Many Lives of a Chinese House

The project of dismantling, researching, conserving and re-erecting Yin Yu Tang, a sixteen-bedroom, a two-story post-and-beam house, took seven years. Aside from family members, the project involved many Chinese and American craftsmen, engineers, architects and historians. Nancy Berliner, curator of Chinese Art at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, will discuss the multiple layers of lives and moments in Yin Yu Tang, making use of photographs, and family letters.

Where: Embassy of the Czech Republic, 2 Ritan Lu, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: November 13, 7:00 pm

(By Zheng Lu)

Recreational vehicles for rent

By Venus Lee

Beijing residents can now travel around the country in a recreational vehicle equipped with a double bed and a washroom. The Shouqi Auto Lease Corporation has unveiled two Mercedes-Benz recreational vehicles, worth more than 2 million yuan each, as the newest addition to its fleet.

"The tentative rental price is 2,000 yuan per day," said Zhao Guiyi, the vehicle rental company's assistant manager.

Aside from the bed and washroom, the vehicle comes with a bar. Those who are out for romance can look at the stars through sun roof while lying in bed at night. There is also an independent power supply system in the cabin, which can run steadily for five hours.

However, the domestic recreational vehicle market is still small, the vehicles' supplier said. "We're primarily trying to understand the market for recreational vehicles," Guo Liwen, the marketing specialist at Zhong-ou Auto Company, said. "Most people still think recreational



Mercedes-Benz recreational vehicles are ready for rent.



Photo provided by Zhong-ou Auto Company

vehicles are luxury vehicles, and they don't buy them. So we worked together with a vehicle rental company to put the car on the rental market."

Deng also mentioned lack of sites for such recreational vehicles. "The biggest problem we've encountered in the business is the lack of campsites. There are lots of hotels around tourist spots and

people are used to living in them when they visit these spots. In contrast, there are seldom permanent buildings like hotels around the scenic spots overseas. Yellowstone National Park in the US, for instance, only has temporary and simple service sites. So, many American people use recreational cars as their base," he said.

But Deng's company is working with

automobile rentals and travel corporations to develop new routes in which people can take recreational vehicles. "We are planning to develop more campsites in Xinjiang, Tibet, Qinghai where nature is well preserved," he said. **For information and inquiries:** Tel: 400 810 9090 Web site: sqzl.com.cn

Beijing-Tianjin express railway ticket online booking remains open

By Wang Yu

Frequent travelers of the Beijing-Tianjin route can rest easy. After an official investigation, the Beijing railway police department said that Xixi.cn's online booking service is legal as the tickets they sell for the express railway between the two cities do not include commission charges.

Since the Beijing-Tianjin express railway began operation in August, the old intercity line was terminated and the departure station was moved to the new Beijing Southern Station, which is newly built but hard

to reach. Because of the long lines, especially on weekends and holidays, it was no longer practical for passengers to buy tickets right before their trip.

Xixi.cn tried to fill in the gap by offering an online booking service. On the Web site, passengers can choose their departure times in both cities two days ahead of their trip. Each ticket is charged an extra 5 yuan for commission.

During the online purchase, passengers must provide personal information such as their name, phone number and address. "The tickets will be sent to our clients

by the express delivery service with which we work. Passengers who live near our office in Jing Long building in the Tuanjiehu area can book online then pick up their tickets," Chen Zhen, the site's marketing director, said.

Passengers in Tianjin are charged a delivery fee of 20 yuan, while those in Beijing, within the Fourth Ring Road, are charged 10 yuan.

Customers can choose to transfer money direct from their bank accounts or to use Alipay, an online payment service akin to ebay's PayPal. Xixi is now

setting up a "cellphone purse system," which will allow passengers to pay via their cellphone and then pick up the tickets at the train station.

Under the law, a ticket agent's behavior is not defined as speculative reselling if he does not seek profit. The Web site now sells about 400 tickets a day — more than 30 are booked by foreign customers. "We do not plan to create an English version of our site. I recommend that foreigners to ask their Chinese friends for help or to have their hotel service contact us," Chen said.

Electrojazz festival gives locals a taste of new music

By Han Manman

What happens when jazz encounters electronic music? The answer is in the First Beijing International Electrojazz Festival, which kicked off at the Forbidden City's Concert Hall yesterday.

"Jazz, in the public's mind, is like an old Hollywood movie. For most people, appreciating this classic music style together with electro is a big challenge," Michel Lombardo, the festival organizer, said.

Lombardo said jazz often falls under the subcategories bebop, swing and jazz-rock, as it was performed in the 1970s. Today's new electrojazz style belongs to young musicians who created a new sound by mixing jazz and electronic music.

Lombardo said the festival, which features 10 concerts over four days, will present an eclectic mix of artists from China, Britain, the US, France and Norway. Bands present include Electro Deluxe, Funky

Skunk, Ostinato Diaspora, Belleruche, Bugge Wesseltorf, Laurent de Wilde, Beat Assault and Booster, featuring Sandra Nkake,

Two popular Chinese bands, Dou Wei's band and the "Red Hand Jazz Band," will also perform at the festival. Dou Wei, regarded as a "pure music fighter," is one of the biggest rock stars in the country. The "Red Hand Jazz Band" will perform a mixture of classic bop and post-bop standard music.

"Besides the concerts, the festival has collaborated with the Beijing Midi School of Music and invited international electrojazz master Laurent De Wilde to give a class to students majoring in music," Lombardo said.

The electrojazz festival aims to introduce to the Chinese this new music style, Lombardo said. "From this year on, we will organize the electrojazz festival annually in Beijing. I hope more and more Chinese will love electrojazz."

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I want to make gingerbread men but I haven't been able to find molasses in Beijing. I've used corn syrup but it doesn't give the gingerbread the same flavor that molasses does. Does anyone know where I can buy a decent sized jar of molasses in Beijing? I remember when I used to live in Taiwan, we used to get huge containers of it and it wasn't imported. I'm not sure if they even have it in China because I've never seen it here except in tiny jars that were imported.

Jenny Lou's is the best place to get it and the Friendship store also carries it. Jenny Lou's has several branches in Beijing, but here are two to get you started:

Jenny Lou's
Address: 6 Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie (on the northeast side of Ritan Park), Chaoyang District
Tel: 6461 6928
Address: South of West Gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6507 5207

A friend of mine rented a new apartment and went with the landlord to the police station for his residence registration. The police charged him a 5 percent tax on the apartment rental, which they said he needed to pay or they wouldn't register him. Is this a new rule and if it is, who should pay the tax—the landlord or the tenant?

This tax is definitely to be borne by the landlord since it is a tax on rental income. Most landlords will not register their apartment as a rental business, claiming they live there themselves. If they admit they are renting it out, however, they need to provide tenants a rental receipt and pay the government a 5 percent tax on the generated income. This has nothing to do with the government wanting more money from foreigners!

(By Wang Yu)

Mondial Assistance wins "Best China Contact Center—Customer Service"

Mondial Assistance, the world leader in roadside assistance and travel insurance, won the award "Best China Contact Center—Customer Service" in this year's China Best Call Center selection. The awards ceremony was held on September 26 in Shanghai.

The 2008 China Best Call Center is a program to identify the best call center through the country and carry out benchmarking in the call center industry. It was established and organized by the China Best Contact Center and CRM Organization, the Resource and Information Center of Contact Centers & BPO Industry and the Alliance of China Software and Services Outsourcing Industry. It was co-organized by the Shang-

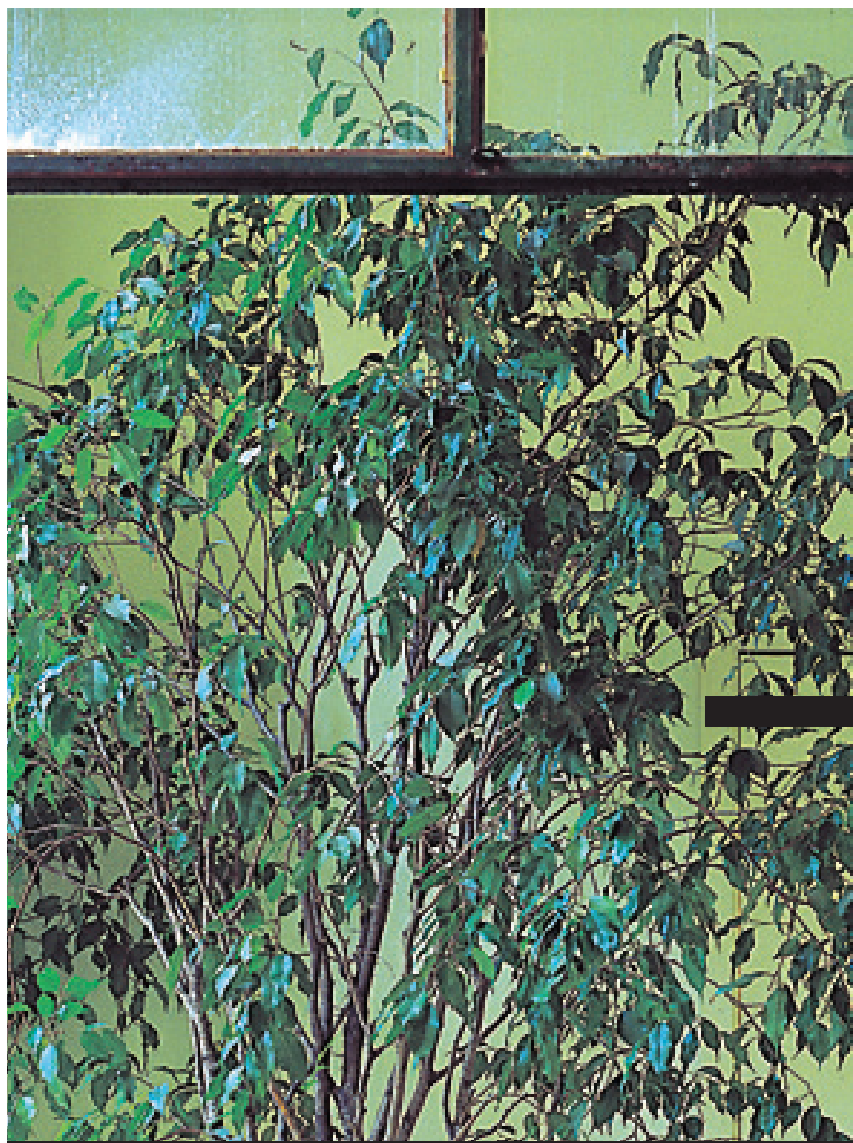
hai and Beijing Association of Call Centers and Wireless Communication and overseen by the National Software and Integrated Circuit Public Services Center of the Ministry of Information Industry.

Judging was conducted in two rounds by a team of 18 experts from various sectors, including the government, media, finance, IT, manufacturing, logistics and telecommunications. The first stage was to identify outstanding companies. The second and final stage was an on-site investigation by the Evaluation Team to gather information regarding the employees' professionalism in giving customer support; and to understand the mecha-

nism of internal quality control.

Christophe Aniel, CEO of Mondial Assistance China, expressed gratitude to his staff for their win. "The credit of Best China Contact Center—Customer Service is not only for the Operations team, but for our whole company as we are all looking forward an even higher quality of services in the future."

Contact:
Mondial Assistance
Address: 14th floor, Air China Plaza, 36 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6447 5966 (Look for Helen.)
Email: helen.changgf@mondial-assistance.com.cn



"Trousers" Vase, by Lin Jing

Life as des

New designs from the Chinese Hong Kong and Taiwan

By He Jianwei

Thousands of white balloons cover the floor of 706 Factory in 798 Art District. Enter and step on the balloons. Several big white boxes in the hall show off the designs from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The exhibition opened last weekend to inspire people to see the innovative designs as an attitude to life and style.



Bamboo Glass, by Daye Industrial Design



Folding Bicycle, by What's That

Chinese mainland

Moving from manufacture to design

All the works by mainland designers were drawn from three big cities: Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Most of the designers were born in the 1970s and 1980s.

"The designers I chose were those from the generation that had grown up since the inception of the reform and opening up. I believe they are the main force in mainland design. For these generations before them, the economic atmosphere and education system could not prepare the designers to make it on the international stage," Tom Shi, curator of the works from the Chinese mainland, said.

The three cities represent the designs of the Chinese mainland. "Shanghai has many good furniture designs, and there are many independent furniture brands. In Beijing, designers pay more attention to art. In Guangzhou, designers have space to develop their independent brands and they are more practical, because it is a commercial city with a history of over 1,000 years," Shi said.

The last 30 years has been "the period that the Chinese mainland transited from manufacture to design," he said.

The works he selected "reflect the life of a generation. They are the collective memory of those born in the 1980s," he said.

Zheng Yi, a designer from Shanghai, printed slogans about family planning on a sheet. Born in 1979, Zheng said those slogans were familiar to his generation, and it was popular for people to send such sheets as a gift in those days.

Western culture and Western design is the second characteristic influence for Chinese mainland designers. "Many designers adopted the modernist or post-modernist style, both of which already have a long history in Western countries. However, they have had only 10 years to develop here," he said.

Guangzhou's designer Zheng Zheng's work is a typical example of modernism. Zheng was influenced by Zaha Hadid, a famous British Iraqi architect. Zheng treats bathroom products as furniture. One of his works is a toilet that resembles a chair.

"Most works reflect oriental philosophy, especially the way the products reveal the rela-

tionship between humans and nature. Many designers use wood or bamboo in their products," Shi said. The Nature Bamboo, a design group from Guangzhou, uses bamboo to make mushroom-shaped lamps.

"Good design is one that can inspire you to imagine a better life – you know how to use the product at the first sight, but you don't know how it will make your life better," he said.

Hong Kong

Decades of brand experience

Although Hong Kong's designs have long been available to the Western market, it has only been during the last 20 to 30 years that designers developed their brands.

"The designers I chose have worked in living goods design for 10 years. Although I only picked one to three of their pieces, I care more about their understanding toward living goods," Ouyang Yingji, curator of works from Hong Kong, said.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Hong Kong was one of the world's factories. "Hong Kong received orders from foreign countries and used foreign designs. All we did was manufacture the products," he said.

Over the past 20 or 30 years, Hong Kong designers have tried to establish their own brands, but "the process of promoting a brand is very tough," he said. The businessmen demand a low price, because they only associate Hong Kong with mass manufacture.

It took designers a long time before foreign customers accepted their products. "It has been 20 or 30 years since our designers entered the field," he said.

Lee Chi Wing, founder of Milk Design, is one of the representatives of Hong Kong designers. Before he founded his own brand, Lee worked for Philips, Franklin Electronic, Pine Technology and Avee.

In 1998, he set up Milk Design, his own design company to offer local and international clients industrial design and product development services. It was a row of hooks that brought his company a revelation about what is most important in design.

"I walked into the shop and listened in as several housewives said they loved the design, but they complained it was too hard to make two

igned

e mainland,

ect. There is an occasional pop as visitors
living products created by designers from
pirit of Chinese daily life, and to examine



Feather Light, by Gear Atelier



Deal Character Chair, by Banmoo



Feather Light, by Gear Atelie

holes in the wall," Lee said.

From then on, Lee put the customer's needs first. Design is simple and user-friendly, and an important tool to provide possibilities, he said. Two home accessory brand names, Zense and Feel Good, were established in 1999 and in 2002.

He focuses on bathroom accessory design, including toothbrush holders, razor holders and slippers.

Besides considering the customers' needs, "Hong Kong designs are always grounded in reality," Ouyang said. The design group Chilichilly made a series of "kill time" cups. The handle of each cup was designed to look like the trigger of a gun.

"It is a way to kill time while we drink tea. It also related to terrorism and war, and is a reminder that the world is not always safe," Ouyang said.

Taiwan Still in its infancy

Like Hong Kong, Taiwan was one of the world's factories ever since its economic boom in the 1960s and 1970s. Statistically, "90 percent of computers are produced in Taiwan, but only 3 percent are Taiwanese brands," Imin Pao, curator of works from Taiwan, said.

Pao said design in Taiwan is only just beginning. "If we are counting by hundreds of years, then Taiwan is in year one. We have only just started to make our own brands, design our own products and sell them to the other countries and regions," he said.

He picked designs that were unique. "I hope Taiwan's products are not only international but also different from the other countries. I was afraid viewers might mistake the products as being from the US," he said.

Taiwan's original design has lagged because of its history as an equipment manufacturer. "There is no need to think when we just manufacture products, but we need to think if we are to create our own brands. We must consider what kind of products French and German people might want," he said.

"Design is a kind of language and a tool. Besides technique, it also requires wisdom. The designers must read many books to understand humanity, history and the economy," he said.



Tom Shi



Ouyang Yingji



Imin Pao



Mammo Chair, by L'installation

Photos provided by the organizers of The Age of Chinese Design

HK's last British governor on this century



Chris Patten

By Annie Wei

Chris Patten, the last Commander-in-Chief and British Governor of Hong Kong, spoke about his new book *What Next? Surviving the 21st Century* (491pp, Allen Lane, US \$39) at The Bookworm Friday.

The book is packed with a wide range of current issues, including climate change, migration, disease, nuclear proliferation, water shortage and energy security. The banking crisis of 2008 happened too late in the year to be included.

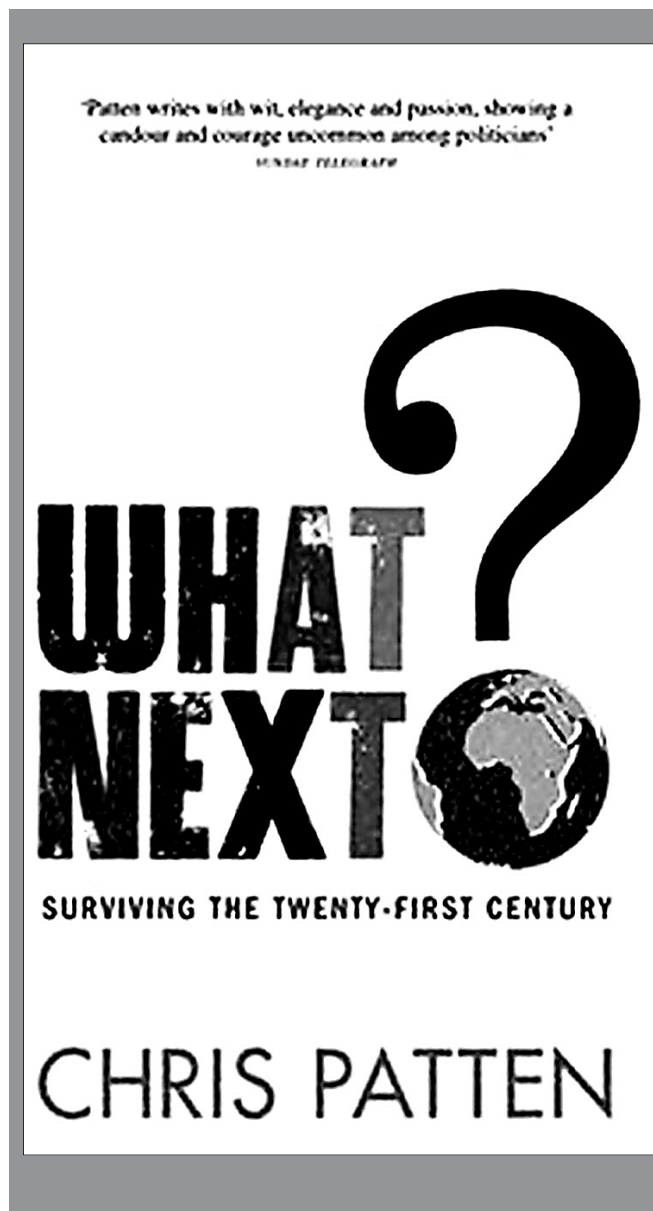
Patten said that despite Iraq, 9/11, terrorism and the resurgence of authoritarian rule in Russia, "looking back on our survival through the second half of the 20th century, it is difficult to believe that today's world is more dangerous." He referenced his schoolboy memory of reading Nevil Shute's *On the Beach*, a story about the last months of a group of survivors of a nuclear attack.

Patten is good at telling stories starting from the small details. He describes how the small, breakaway region of

Transnistria, a Russian-dominated enclave in the European state of Moldova, is an officially sanctioned mafia hideout. From here, he points out how many wars are fueled, from Chechnya to Africa. He explains the poverty in Congo by identifying its customs regime as being at the root of corruption, and elucidates the correlation between countries' dependency on commodity exports and their susceptibility to conflict. He points out that it would require only US \$15 billion (102 billion yuan) to meet the United Nations Millennium Development goal of halving the number of people who lack access to safe drinking water, compared to "the approximately \$100 billion a year spent on bottled water," John Kamfner's book review on *The Observer* said.

Patten's book is a look at the big global questions with few surprises, but the man, still engaged in foreign affairs, has a strong voice. Patten's experience includes former EU Commissioner for External Affairs, a one-time Cabinet member and member of the British Parliament. His position, especially as the last governor of Hong Kong, gives him a unique perspective on Asia, especially on China.

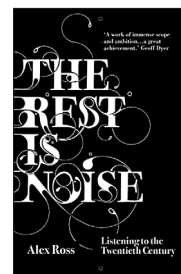
Patten is a humorous speaker, though nothing he said was decisive. He used details from world famous books like *War and Peace* to contrast the state of Russia today. When someone asked what he thought of China's oil strategy, Patten said the US still consumes the most oil in the world, and he questioned why no one declares it a threat.



Bookworm book listing

Jenny Niven from the Bookworm recommends the following new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century



By Alex Ross, 624pp, Fourth Estate, US \$18

A sweeping musical history that goes from the salons of pre-war Vienna to Velvet Underground shows in the sixties. In this book, Alex Ross, music critic of *The New Yorker*, gives a riveting tour of the wild landscape of 20th century classical music: portraits of individuals, cultures and nations reveal the predicament of the composer in a noisy, chaotic century.

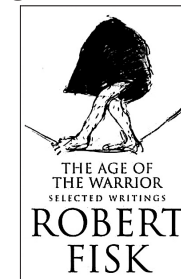
The Hakawati



By Rabi Alameddine, 513pp, Picador, US \$25.95

An astonishingly inventive, wonderfully exuberant novel that takes the reader from the shimmering dunes of ancient Egypt to the war-torn streets of modern Lebanon. In 2003, Osama al-Kharrat returns to Beirut after many years in America to stand vigil at his father's deathbed. The city is a shell of the Beirut Osama remembers, but he and his friends and family take solace in the things that have always sustained them: gossip, laughter and, above all, stories.

The Age of the Warrior



By Robert Fisk, 544pp, Nation Books, US \$28.95

A selection of Robert Fisk's commentaries from the *Saturday Independent*. Fisk has amassed a devoted readership over the years with his insightful, witty and always outspoken articles on international politics and mankind's war-torn recent history. He is best known for his writing about the Middle East, its wars, dictators and international relations, but these articles cover an array of topics, from his soldier grandfather to handwriting to the Titanic – and of course President Bush, terrorism and Iraq.

(By He Jianwei)

French Nobel winner and his Ourania

By Han Manman

Every time a new Nobel literature laureate is announced, his or her works zoom from obscure indexes to China's best seller list.

However, the works of French writer Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clezio, this year's nominee, are an exception.

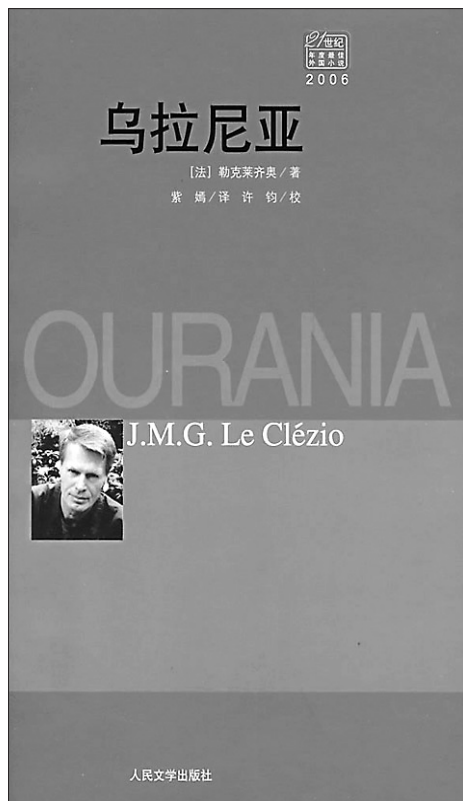
Although his recent work *Ourania* went back into print as soon as he got the prize, most bookstores are reporting weak sales.

"The book is his only work printed in China in the last eight years," translator and professor Dong Qiang said. Dong is not only Le Clezio's friend but also an important supporter who has tried to promote awareness of Le Clezio's works. *Ourania* was first published in Chinese on January 28, he said.

The book describes a near-Utopian society in Mexico, which won Le Clezio favorable reviews after its recent publication in France. The reader is intended to draw parallels between two "idealist" communities.

The book also won the "annual best foreign novels in 21 century" by the People's Literature Publishing House (PLPH).

"January 28, Le Clezio came to Beijing to release *Ourania* and accept the award. That day was so cold, but the reaction of domestic media and readers was even colder," Song Qiong, from PLPH, said.



Bloggers step up to sort out the music scene

By Wang Yu

Most music fans can remember their high school years – when they would cut back on their eating to save for their CDs. When the weekend came, it was time to pop in a disc and let it spin until they learned every note by heart.

In the Internet era, music is easier to come by, but the deluge of information can make it hard to sort out the good music from the mediocre.

The personal music blog may be the answer. These bloggers collect information about different styles and share their reviews and videos, and some have started online indie record labels. Each popular blog has its own style, and the bloggers can be collectively taken as the music opinion leaders of the Internet.

Many music blogs began with a sudden hit of inspiration or a desire to build on another blog's idea: none of them ask for money. Wuyaa, a third year college student, is the founder of From Summer, named for a phrase from a song by British band Thirteen Sense. "The Internet has exposed me to different kinds of music, through which I have made many friends. I think we can use it to spread good songs as a resistance against manufactured music like Jay Chou's," Wuyaa said.

"The music on my blog may not always be the latest. Of course, information about new releases by important artists can bring us more page views. However, I don't care about promotional value – I just recommend good music," he said. The page views of more popular blogs can climb as high as 1,000 unique visits per day.

Usually, a music blog is run by a two-part team: one half handles the technical back end and the other generates content. "Members of my team used to chat on a Western music BBS until we made up our minds to rent a server and start Music Instyle (m-instyle.cn)," He Ji, leader of the team, said.

"Music is endless. Some brilliant works can easily be missed by listeners and others may find it hard to listen to anything at all since there is just too much coming out. The group's main role is filtering," Wuyaa said.

While From Summer and Music Instyle focus on Western indie music, especially from British bands, others are famous for their collection of Metal, Hip-Hop, Jazz or Japanese music. What unites each team is its interest in a common style of music.

The team members rarely meet each other. Most are college students who may back out after graduation. "I lost contact with some old friends who I worked with when we began our blog. A real job takes up too much time, and I will probably face the same problem next year," He Ji said.

Some blogs which offer free downloads have been blamed for copyright infringement. Tony Li, who started Music Parking in 2003, was one of the earliest bloggers. He halted his personal page a year ago. "I received a warning letter from the IFPI (International Federation of the Phonographic Industry) in which they asked me to remove the download links to one of Fall Out Boy's albums in 2006. I did what they said and they went away. I closed my blog because I was tired of blogging," Li said.

Similar things have happened to other blogs, but most indie music goes under the radar. "I got audio files from overseas blogs and BBSes (Bulletin Board Systems) using tools like BitTorrent," Li said. Many of the music resources come from overseas o-Day BBSes, an outgrowth of the warez-group driven piracy scene where software, videos and music are made available before or at their time of release.

Music blogs now prefer to give the MySpace address of related bands. But most Chinese fans complain that CDs by such indie bands are hard to find in the domestic market, and downloading is the only way to spread their music.

Sailor music has released the second issue of its E-zine to supplement its blog. Blogger David Shen started his music gallery in 2005 before he went to study in Korea. "I like writing about music, and the articles are a big part of our blog. The magazine was released as a two-year anniversary special for our readers. After that, we decided to publish regularly," Shen said.

"We also plan to start an online record label to help independent bands in China who have talent but lack exposure," Shen said. There are many musicians in China who do not live on their music, and they are willing to put their works on these blogs to let fans download for free.



Cover of Sailor
Music's E-zine

Photo provided by David Shen

Join the Sleeping Revolution

By Gan Tian

IKEA has launched a campaign called "Sleeping Revolution," giving tribute to the importance of sleep in our lives. We, after all, spend one-third of our lives catching Zzzs. The international chain has created a checklist to determine which mattress will suit your lifestyle: How much do you weigh? Are you a restless sleeper? How warm do you get at night? If customers are not happy with their Sultan mattress, they can have the product exchanged within 60 days. Now, that should make people sleep soundly.

Gosa Karna

This pillow filler is adapted for those who prefer sleeping on their backs. At 33 by 60 by 7 centimeters, its shape and foam filling molds to a person's body and provides good support.

Where: IKEA, 1 Taiyanggong Lu, Dongbahe, Chaoyang District

Price: 150 yuan

Gosa Vide

This low pillow, at 50 by 80 centimeters, is for people who prefer sleeping on their stomachs; the neck will be bent less and the strain on muscles will be reduced. The pillow is filled with microfibers that make it soft and airy, while the outer cotton fabric keeps the pillow cool and dry.

Available: IKEA, 1 Taiyanggong Lu, Dongbahe, Chaoyang District

Price: 299 yuan

Sultan Elsfjord

If you find Sultan Fossing too thick, try Sultan Elsfjord, also in the same series. This latex mattress, according to IKEA, provides ventilation and improved blood circulation to both muscles and skin. Like Sultan Fossing, this mattress is also reversible – value for money!

Where: IKEA, 1 Taiyanggong Lu, Dongbahe, Chaoyang District

Price: Single 1,999 yuan, Queen 2,999 yuan

Sultan Fossing

The Sultan Fossing mattress, which comes in single, queen and king size, offers five comfort zones to provide support and relieve pressure on shoulders and hips. Made of polyurethane foam, the mattress is even reversible: Use both sides to keep the mattress fresh and prolong optimal comfort.

Where: IKEA, 1 Taiyanggong Lu, Dongbahe, Chaoyang District

Price: Single 2,499 yuan, Queen 3,699 yuan, King 4,599 yuan



Dragon-patterned Pot

If you are looking for a more elegant design, and do not mind paying a higher price, this pot is for you. It is made of bronze and has a Dragon design on its body.

Where: 24, F2, South Building, Panjiayuan Second-hand Market, Chaoyang District

Price: 400 yuan



Cranberry candle

Light this candle in the bedroom and lock in the scent of cranberry the whole night. It may make you dream of berries.

Available: 42 Nan Luoguxiang, Chaoyang District

Price: 69 yuan



Boshan Pot

Some people sleep more soundly if there is fragrance in the air. If you are one of these people, you might be interested in the Boshan Pot for your fragrance oil. The pot, with its traditional Chinese design, resembles the Boshan Pot of the Jin Dynasty.

Where: B14, G2, 77 Street, Xidan, Xicheng District

Price: 69 yuan

Make your own brew

By Gan Tian

Cafe Gallery serves not only coffee, but knowledge of coffee. Coffee fans gather here and talk for hours about how to make a great brew and about the latest products and practices in the coffee lovers' world.

Home and office

Opened in July, Cafe Gallery is not your conspicuous establishment on Sanlitun Bar Street. The small cafe is at the north end of the road, almost hidden by trees. It is near several embassies, which makes for a quiet location.

Its orange lighting gives it a warm and homey atmosphere. The interior designer used mirrors to make the place look and feel larger. The cafe has two sections – one contains the bar, while the other has table-and-chair sets.

The bar is where baristas make coffee. Customers can choose to sit here for a cup of coffee and make small talk with the people behind the bar. If clients prefer a larger space, then it is time to move to the next room.

Here, customers can watch people passing by Sanlitun Bar Street, or think quietly with the smell of coffee wafting in. Some regulars even bring work to the cafe as they provide free Wi-Fi service for online surfing. They also have a photocopying and fax machine.

Cafe Gallery

Where: F1, 30 Sanlitun Bei Jie, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – midnight
Tel: 6416 9797



From coffee beans into a cup of coffee

Do-it-yourself

One of the most extraordinary things about Cafe Gallery is that customers here can make their own coffee: and not by using a coffee maker.

Here is how it goes: First choose some coffee beans. Cafe Gallery offers various types, including Jamaica 100 percent Blue Mountain Coffee for 568 yuan a pack and Irish Coffee for 170 yuan per pack.

Next, grind the beans with a hand-powered coffee roaster.

You can take one of these devices home for 50 yuan. An electronic one is 30 yuan. The cafe also sells special Belgium coffee boilers for 3,380 and 3,880 yuan.

Classics and specials

Cafe Gallery's special drink, Classical Drip Ice Coffee (60 yuan per cup), takes three hours to prepare. If you need some rejuvenation, pick up a cup.

Another recommended drink is their coffee jelly, which goes for 8 yuan. The cafe owners import jelly powder from Japan to create this snack. It is best served on a winter afternoon.

Belgium golden coffee boilers, 3,880 yuan

Photos by Teddy Miu

Different types of coffee at Cafe Gallery



Coffee jelly, 8 yuan per glass

Cafe Gallery's warm and homey decor



Hand-powered coffee roaster, 50 yuan



There are coffee lectures at Cafe Gallery

Other cafes that gives coffee lessons

Eastern Cafe

Where: 109, No. 2 China Central Apartment, 89 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – midnight
Tel: 6533 1558

Miluo Cafe

Where: 406 Huizhong Bei Li, Yayuncun, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – midnight
Tel: 6486 8448

Lamborghini

Where: F1, Tower D, Sunshine 100, 2 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – midnight
Tel: 6508 7577

Upcoming

Concert

Legend of Silk and Bamboo – Chinese Traditional Music

Who: China Central Conservatory of Music
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District
When: November 8, 7:30 pm
Admission: 60-200 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Friday,
November 7

5

Exhibition

Soul Guardians in an Age of Disasters

This is Li Chen's sculpture exhibition, which was showcased at the 52nd Venice Biennale last year. His large-scale bronzes fuse Zen thought with contemporary artistic methods.

Where: Asia Art Center (Beijing), 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 21, daily except Monday 10:30 am – 6:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9709

Movie

Napoleon Dynamite

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyuan, Xicheng District

When: 8 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6617 3231

Simon of the Desert

Where: Instituto Cervantes in Beijing, A1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5879 9666

Nightlife

Wu and the Side Effects

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar (inside the drive-in movie theater park) 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm

Tel: 8196 4820

DJ Shadow

DJ Shadow, an American music producer and songwriter who is considered the most mythic name in electronic music, makes his Beijing debut.

Where: Angel Club, 6 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 10 pm

Tel: 6558 8888



Soul Guardians in an Age of Disasters

Exhibition

Midnight – Zhang Qing

Solo Exhibition

Where: 94 Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 7, Tue-Fri noon – 6 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 0467

Industrial scene – Ju Huiqing

Solo Exhibition

Where: 3818 Cool Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 24, daily except Monday 10:30 am – 6:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8688 2525, 8456 6664

Movie

My Final Secret

Where: Space for Imagination, 5 Xiwangzhuang Shuangqing Lu, Haidian District

When: 3:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6279 1280

Duckweed

A documentary about rich people in Shenzhen, whose wealth came about through smuggling and stock market and real estate speculation.

Where: Space for Imagination, 5 Xiwangzhuang Shuangqing Lu, Haidian District

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6279 1280

Night life

Intermix Asia Tour

This annual Asian, electronic dance tour finally swings into Beijing with some of Japan's top techno talents performing with DJ Elvis of Acupuncture Records, Beijing's homegrown electronic label.

Where: White Rabbit Club, C2, Haoyun Jie, 29 Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 10 pm – 6 am (next day)

Cost: 80 yuan

Tel: 133 2112 3678

A new interpretation of “Impossible is Nothing”

By Li Jing

“Impossible is Nothing,” in this case, is not talking about sport. Rather, it is the title of Xu Zhen's solo exhibition at 798 Art District's Long March Space galleries.

At the door to the front exhibition hall, a piece of thick curtain hangs from floor to ceiling. Once viewers get behind the curtain, they will be lost in darkness; the room has only a small number of lights blinking occasionally. But once the eyes have adjusted to the dimness, visitors will find a spaceship suspended from the ceiling, along with a sea-blue ball-shaped object.

The back exhibition hall, meanwhile, is lit up with 10 bright lights. Warm and dazzling is the first impression viewers get. Then people are surprised to see a three-year-old live girl in the setup. This is another installation, entitled “The Starving of Sudan.” In her desert landscape, the child talks to visitors and sometimes murmurs to herself. She becomes a bridge of communication between the artist and his audience.

Interactivity is a characteristic of 31-year-old Xu's work. In 2001, he began experimenting with the method in an exhibition entitled “Developing Time.” At the entrance to the exhibition, human hands protruding from a wall suddenly reached out to visitors and remained stretched out until the people's departure from the room. Since then, interactivity has been emphasized in Xu's work.

Xu is considered one of China's foremost young artists. In 2001, he stepped on to the world art stage by exhibiting works at the 49th Venice Biennale. He also participated in the 51st Venice Biennale's Chinese Pavilion, and was awarded the top prize, the Chinese Contemporary Art Award.

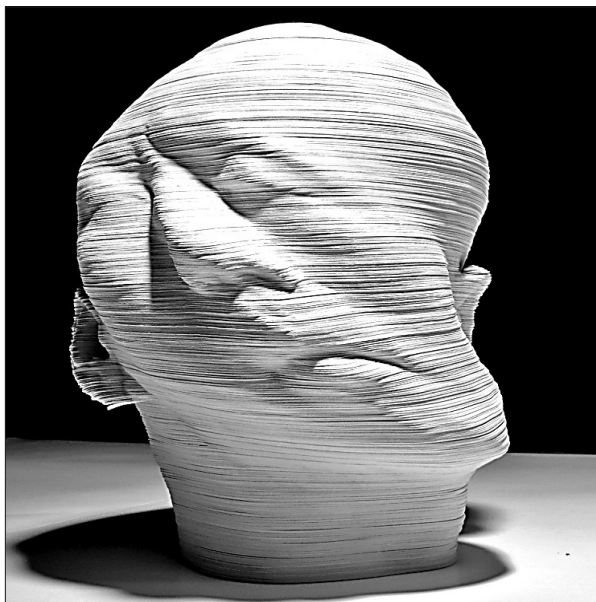
Impossible is Nothing – Xu Zhen Solo Exhibition

Where: Gallery B and C, Long March Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 30, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 7107



Painting and Handwork

7 Sunday, November 9

Exhibition

Lost in the Shade – Wang Jie Solo Exhibition

Where: New Age Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: until November 30, daily except Monday 11:30 am – 6:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9282

Peripheral Vision – Huang Zhiyang

Where: Pekin Fine Arts, 241 Caochangdi, Chaoyang District

When: Until January 4, daily except Monday and Tuesday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5127 3220

Painting and Handwork

Where: PIFO New Art Studios, B-07 Beijing International Art Camp, Suojiaocun, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 15, daily 10 am – 6 pm,

Admission: Free

Tel: 6437 1792

Stage in December

Concert

Wu Muye Piano Recital

Who: Wu Muye

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng District

When: December 13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Music from Oscar-winning Films

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-150 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Batko Delorko Piano Concert

Who: Batko Delorko

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-150 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Elaine Paige's Music

Who: Elaine Paige

Where: Great Hall of the People (west side of Tiananmen Square), Xicheng District

When: December 14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,500 yuan

Tel: 5165 6039

Music by the Shanxi Provincial Orchestra

Who: Shanxi Provincial Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 3-4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-380 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Flamenco Dance Sevilla

Who: Maria Pages Dance Company

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 5-6, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Anne Sofie Von Otter Concert

Who: Anne Sofie Von Otter

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 10, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

Burning Steps

Who: Song and Dance Troupe of the People's Liberation Army's General Political Department

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 1-2, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Stars

Who: Guangzhou Song and Dance Company

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 9, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-400 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

The Canterville Ghost

Who: TNT Theater Britain

Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 48 Hepingli Dajie, Xicheng District

When: December 12-14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-680 yuan

Tel: 5833 1218

(By Li Jing)

Are search engines a brain drain?

By Gan Tian

The debate over "whether search engines make us stupid or clever" has raged for years. However, a new study by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) last month showed that using search engines can improve brain activity associated with intelligent reasoning, especially in older folks.

Making us stupid

Nicholas Carr published "Is Google Making Us Stupid" in the *Atlantic Monthly* in June, saying that some search activities have changed the way humans' brains think. In the article he wrote, "Over the past few years I've had an uncomfortable sense that someone, or something, has been tinkering with my brain, remapping the neural circuitry, reprogramming the memory." He presented past and present examples. Take a look and decide whether it is happening to you:

Past:

- a) Immersing myself in a book or a lengthy article used to be easy.
- b) My mind would get caught up in the narrative or the turns of the argument, and I'd spend hours strolling through long stretches of prose.

Present:

- a) My concentration often starts to drift after two or three pages.
- b) I get fidgety, lose the thread and begin looking for something else to do.
- c) I feel as if I'm always dragging my wayward brain back to the text.
- d) The deep reading that used to come naturally has become a struggle.

Getting clever

"Not us ... maybe it's just you?" came the reply to Carr. The UCLA study would seem to put to rest most of Carr's reasoning as it includes actual rather than empirical data. It believes that the more people use search engines, the more clever they will be.

Scientists chose 24 people aged 55 to 78 years old, half of whom used computers frequently, and half of whom did not. They were given a Google page and asked to collect some data. The Magnetic Resonance Imaging brain scanner showed that those who used the computer frequently were more powerful in the frontal lobe of the brain, which controls "decisions" and "logic."

Scientists said frequent users will think with more logic when they are using search engines. They are confronting a "problem" rather than simply searching for something, so they will use the "logic" part of the brain.

How to become clever

If you want to search James Bond's new movie *Quantum of Solace*, simply entering **Quantum of Solace** into Google is stupid. Scientists believe that you are not using your brain when your query is this simple.

To improve your brain, you must know how to use key words. If you want information about *Quantum of Solace*, you can use **Quantum of Solace, Daniel Craig, Mar Forster** as your key words. If you want to see the movie, you can input **Quantum of Solace, DVD**, or add **"cart"** to prevent advertisement sites.

Frequent search engine users can develop their brains this way.

Chinese market

The largest Chinese search engine Baidu.com created Searching Millionaire, an online game in 2002. The game provides different searching tasks for users, in which they can enrich their knowledge and practice using the search engine more efficiently.

Searching Millionaire provides odd questions, from geography to daily life. Other search engines are developing their own similar games.

Bad night's sleep a smarts killer

By Venus Lee

Suffering from Insomnia

"I have been criticized several times by my boss because of my slow thinking and response time," Chen Bo, a designer in a private advertising company, said. "I always feel listless during the daytime. I often fail to concentrate on other's lectures and have a mental block when I go over my designs at the meeting. I am stressed a lot, so I can't sleep at night, especially when I reflect on my poor performance at the office."

Sleep is a protection activity for the body. Only if you sleep well at night can you be energetic at study, work or social activities the next day. A sleepless night will leave you listless, dizzy and discombobulated. "Insomnia will not only affect the efficiency of your work or study, but also your health. It can make your intelligence drop and alter your mental capacity," Zhang Xiaoran, a doctor in Beijing Binhe Hospital, said.

Causes of Insomnia

1. Tinkering with the biological clock: frequent night shifts or jet lag caused by travel abroad.
2. Abrupt impact of bad events: the death of relatives, unemployment, marriage breakups, quarrels and business failure can cause emotional instability, fear and prolonged distress.
3. Primary insomnia: people who are sensitive, always worries about everything, stress easily, are anxious or sleep poorly can have chronic insomnia when they experience significant pressure.
4. Stimulating beverages: to drink tea, coffee and alcohol before sleep will cause a temporary excitement and disrupt the normal schedule.
5. Iatrogenic cause: dependence on sleeping pills over a long time will cause drug resistance. With the drug out of the picture, insomnia returns with a vengeance.
6. Organic diseases of the brain: the hardening of the cerebral artery, thick blood, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, cerebral infarction or brain trauma will cause reduced blood flow to the brain, malnutrition and metabolic disorders. All these illness will result in poor quality of sleep.

Ways get the most out of sleep time

1. Go to bed and wake up at regular times.
2. Do not drink coffee, cola or tea and do not eat chocolate before bed. Try an apple, milk or caffeine free soft drink.
3. To stay calm and put your anxiety and troubles aside. Close your eyes and breathe deeply.
4. Keep away from the TV or computer, because the flashing lights of the screen will make you nervous and excited.
5. A bubble bath for 20 to 30 minutes will contribute to good sleep, but keep the water temperature between 37 to 40 C.
6. Do some simple, moderate exercises to encourage fatigue. Avoid intense exercise before going to bed.
7. Do not nap in the afternoon, and especially in the evening.

6-8 hours sleep is enough

Marathon sleep sessions can also be damaging for your health. Most people just know frequent insomnia is harmful, but longer sleep is also bad. It does nothing to release fatigue, but will affect intelligence, Zhang said. For adults, six to eight hours of sleep is standard, five to six hours is common for older people, but teenagers need eight to nine hours of sleep, he said.



CFP Photo

Picturesque autumn in Beijing

By Jackie Zhang

The face of Beijing changes with its seasons. In Spring, the green returns, but with it comes the wind and sandstorms that turn so many off from touring. In summer, everywhere is hot, and a night out usually ends at the bar. In winter, the weather is bitterly cold and no one wants to go out unless it is to ski.

Many consider Autumn the best season in Beijing. The weather is not too hot and not too cold. Photographers love to go out and capture the changing season. Red leaves, golden ginkgo trees and old villages in the city's suburbs draw crowds year after year.



Ma Ziyue, photographer

The red valley

Hongyegu Valley in Huairou

There is a valley in Huairou District where everything is covered in red leaves, even the cliffs. It is not a developed tourism spot, but was discovered by travel fans and named Hongyegu Valley (Red Leaves Valley).

Many years ago, I used to drive to the suburbs to tour and take photos. But I never paid attention to the views along the way. This time, when I drove to Hongyegu, I knew I had to drive slowly to take in the scenery.

The red leaves are like Boston ivy, climbing on the mountains and cliffs. There are three routes to get to the Hongyegu: the north route, south route and middle route. I suggest following the north route, where the scenery is its most beautiful.

The red leaves in Hongyegu are different from those on the Fragrant Hills. Most are from sumacs and maples. The evergreen arbors in the mountain forms a background for the patches of red.

I took photos and also picked up a leaf to use as a bookmark. Actually, it is better to come by bicycle than by car.

Getting there:

Drive from Sanyuanqiao at East Third Ring Road and get on the Jingshun Expressway. Pass the Sunhe, Kuliushu, Niulanshan and Yingbin Huandao exits, then get off at Huairou.

From the Huairou Exit, drive

onto Jingmi Lu. When you arrive at the traffic loop to enter Huairou, about 3 kilometers, turn left to the north. Drive directly to Hefangkou. Pass Pazhazi and turn left at the intersection and drive through a tunnel. Turn left at Liulimiao Crossing. There is a bridge 500 meters away. Drive across the bridge and through Laogongying Village. The road will narrow, and you will be at the entrance to the valley.

Village where 22 juren were born

Lingshuicun Village in western Beijing

Lingshuicun is also called Jurencun, since 22 young people from that village became juren, those who passed the provincial exams for civil service during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1636-1912) dynasties. Every year, from the end of October, photography fans make plans to come to the village.

The village is in Mentougou District. It is quieter and older than Cuandixia Village, another famous old village in Beijing. Although it is old and poor, many photography fans love the place. Its wooden windows and kang are all

old. The old theater stages and temples are a magnificent sight, and the late-autumn sunshine makes the place seem more silent and mysterious.

The temple at the south end of the village is the best place to shoot a panorama of the village. The village is shaped like a tortoise. The head of the tortoise is the temple at the south end and the tail is the northern temple. Longwang Temple, Lingquan Temple, Mawang Temple and Wenchang Pavilion are the four legs of the tortoise.

There are three stone streets in the village. The Juren Courtyard is the most famous. Its stone carvings and old door stand as a testament to its history. There are many other old courtyards in the village. According to the oldest villagers, there are 162 siheyuans, six Ming Dynasty courtyards and 120 from Qing Dynasty. Each has a different story.

In Longwang Temple, there are two old cypresses each a thousand years old. One is 13 meters high. An elm is growing between the branches of this high cypress. In the other, a 5-meter

mulberry tree grows out of one of the cypress branches.

Getting there:

Take Subway Line 2 and get off at Pingguoyuan Station. Then take bus 929 and get off at Zhaitang Town in Mentougou. There are buses to Lingshuicun in town.

Alternatively, you can drive along the National Road 109 to Mentougou from Pingguoyuan. After 50 minutes, you will see a sign for Lingshuicun. Get off the national road and drive past Sangyucun Village to Lingshuicun.

Continued on page 21 ...

Mountains covered with red leaves in Hongyegu Valley (top)
Old homes remain in Lingshui Village (bottom) CFP Photo



... continued from page 20

The golden avenue

Yingbin Lu, outside the east and north walls of the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse

Beijing is famous for its red leaves in the Fragrant Hills, but the most beautiful autumn scenery is not the red leaves but the golden leaves of the ginkgo tree.

Ginkgo trees have been planted in the capital for centuries. The oldest ginkgo in Tanzhesi Temple on Xishan Mountain was planted in the Liao Dynasty (907-1125). The trees can live long and never attract insects. Their leaves look like duck feet, which earned them the nickname Yazhangye (duck feet leaves) in ancient times.

The ginkgo forests outside the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse are the most famous and attract photographers every autumn. I work near the Guesthouse and pass by the avenue every day.

Early in the morning last Saturday, I walked along the east wall of the Guesthouse, where the



Xiao Yurong's,
photography fan

ginkgo leaves were still green. However, when sunlight hit the leaves, they took on a golden inlay. The early morning was silent. An old lady who was cleaning up the fallen leaves told me that the ginkgo trees here are Beijing's oldest. When all the leaves turn golden, everything on the street will be covered with golden color. The lady showed me a ginkgo fruit too. Ginkgo fruit is called Baiguo and is used in Chinese medicine.

Now is the best time to photograph ginkgo leaves as they are turning gold. Do not wait, because all it takes is one strong wind and the

trees will be left bare till next year.

Getting there:

Take Subway Line 1 and get off at Muxidi, or take buses 114, 102, 103 or 320 to the Diaoyutai Stop.



The bulrush along the lake in Yuanmingyuan



Photos by Herbert Fan

Historic and natural autumn scenery

Yuanmingyuan

Yuanmingyuan is not an odd destination, but few people visit once the weather turns cold. It is a nice place to take photos of Beijing's autumn.

The first spot in the park is the Xiyanglou (European Palaces) Ruins, including Dashuifa (Grand Waterworks) and the maze. The cool weather and falling leaves, together with the ruins, makes the desolate scene stand out. Another place is the banks along the lake in the park. There are bulrush planted along the lake. In autumn, the bulrush wave with the wind.

Watching red leaves or ginkgo leaves is a romantic activity. Friends, lovers or groups can go together to enjoy the sights. When I went to Yuanmingyuan last weekend, I



Herbert Fan,
photography fan

took photos of the Dashuifa ruins, the bulrush and the ancient architectural remains. That day had a clear autumn sky with a nippy breeze. The scene was one that made you recall the history of that place.

When you finish taking photos, sit down beside the lake. There is no better place to calm your worries about life, love or work.

Getting there:

There are many buses to Yuanmingyuan, including 319, 331, 432, 690 and 696.

Admission:

10 yuan per person. To visit the Xiyanglou Ruins, you have to buy another ticket for 15 yuan per person.



People like to go to the ginkgo avenue for photos.
CFP Photo

How to interview new graduates

By Naomi Saunders

As everyone knows, hiring the best staff is a crucial part of the future success and development of your company. For many companies, recent university graduates represent a great pool of fresh talent. New graduates can offer enthusiasm, flexibility and in-depth technical ability. At this time of year, the top multinational and Chinese companies will be spending a great deal of time and money on marketing their companies at university job fairs and conducting campus recruitment drives. Hiring fresh graduates, however, has its disadvantages. It can be risky as these young people often have little business experience and lack the soft skills to succeed in a corporate environment.

When hiring new graduates, we cannot rely on a proven track record to predict their efficiency in the workplace. Moreover, many students have been thoroughly taught "interview skills" and how to answer common interview questions such as, "What can you bring to this company?" So how can you accurately judge the potential of a recent graduate?

Many experienced human resource professionals use the Behavioral Interviewing technique to assess candidates – a technique especially applicable to hiring those without much work experience. The basic premise of Behavioral Interviewing is to question candidates about their past behavior and feelings



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TRAINING FIRM OF THE YEAR

“ The basic premise of Behavioral Interviewing is to question candidates about their past behavior and feelings and presume that this is a decent indicator of how they will behave in the future.

If candidates use words such as usually, always or never, they are not giving you an accurate picture of their past behavior. ”

and presume that this is a decent indicator of how they will behave in the future. This type of questioning allows candidates to draw on their previous experience from university clubs and organizations, part-time jobs and volunteer work to show their competency level in a range of areas including time management, customer service, flexibility, leadership and commitment.

The first step as an interviewer is to identify which competencies are required for the position and then to design questions to elicit the candidates' instinctive behavioral response. Let us

take as an example a sales representative. Some of the skills required for this position would include negotiation and persuasion, customer service, multitasking and priority setting. A fresh university graduate may not have any direct sales experience but we can predict their level of competency in each of these areas using Behavioral Interviewing.

Every student has experience in multitasking and priority setting, and in order to discover their competency in this field, you can ask questions such as, "Tell me about a time when you had many tasks to complete at the same time. How did you deal with this situation and how did you feel about it?" The focus should be on exactly what the candidate did and how they felt about it. Did they make a list? Did they tackle the hardest task first or follow a chronological method? Did they wait until the last minute or finish the task in advance? Did they feel stressed by the procedure or did they feel relaxed? Encourage candidates to express themselves fully and do not interrupt during their explanation.

Be careful that candidates give you a truly behavioral answer, outlining how they behaved, not what they think you



Naomi Saunders is Corporate Trainer of ClarkMorgan

want to hear. If candidates use words such as usually, always or never, they are not giving you an accurate picture of their past behavior. For example, if a candidate answers the questions above with, "I always write a list and complete the most important task first," they are not giving a behavioral answer. Direct them to a true answer by saying, "Please describe the last time this happened and tell me about the tasks you had to complete." Push the candidate to give you some details and they will have to answer more honestly.

Although Behavioral Interviewing is not an exact science, it can help give employers a more accurate picture of the soft skills candidates already possess and the areas where they will need extra training. It also helps employers get past rehearsed and pre-planned answers and helps them make the best decision about their next new hire.

Dining

Authentic Taiwanese Cuisine

Taiwanese cuisine, originating from Southeast Asian food, features a lot of seafood and pays special attention to the freshness and tenderness of its dishes. The cuisine is often associated with Cantonese and Japanese food and Hakka-style dishes.

Zhaolong Hotel, which opened Qing Ye, the first Taiwanese restaurant in Beijing, specializes in Taiwanese cuisine. It offers Taiwanese specialties like Fresh Abalone in Spicy Sauce, Shrimps and Lychee Salad, Chicken Wings in Three Cups Sauce, Steamed Bean Curd with Vegetables and Jinmen Kaoliang Spirits.

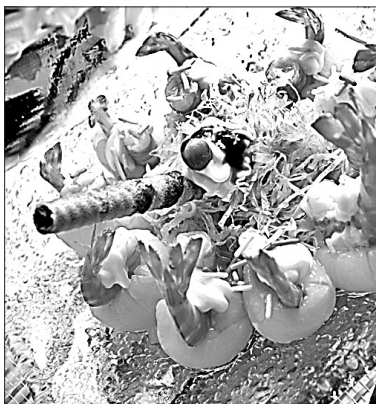
Where: Han Mei Fang Chinese restaurant, Zhaolong Hotel, 2 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Redmoon

Redmoon restaurant and bar is popular for lunch, evening cocktails and late night drinks. The place is known for its Sushi counter and its premium beverages, particularly whiskies. Try

its Belvedere vodka, which is distilled from Dankowskie gold rye grown in the Mazovian plains of Poland. A quartet plays modern music using traditional Chinese instruments, while bartenders mix drinks.

Where: Redmoon restaurant and bar, Grand Hyatt Beijing, 1 Dong Chang'an Jie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 8518 1234



Hotel

Futian Shangri-La, Shenzhen opens in Southern China

Futian Shangri-La, located in the heart of Shenzhen's Futian business district, has opened its doors to the public.

In celebration of the opening, the hotel is offering an introductory rate starting from 1,280 yuan per night for a deluxe room, single or double occupancy (subject to availability and a 15 percent service charge).

Where: Futian Shangri-La, 4088 Yitian Lu, Futian District, Shenzhen

When: October 23 – January 31, 2009

Tel: 0755 8828 4088

Acclaimed French DJ spins at Hilton Beijing

French DJ Stephane Pomponac touches down in Beijing for one night of musical celebration.

The 11th volume of Pomponac's musical series will take you around the world, fusing acoustic and international sounds from Italy to Brazil without overlooking the US and the UK. Aside from his Hotel Costes compilations, he has also

remixed tracks for some of the biggest names in the music industry, including Madonna, who had Pomponac reinvent her track "What it feels like for a girl."

Where: Zeta Bar, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dong Sanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 15, 9 pm

Cost: 100 yuan

Tel: 138 1151 5110 (Look for Bob.)

Winter Meeting Package

Radisson SAS Beijing will be offering winter meeting packages at a special eight-hour daily delegate rate. It is great value for money if you have at least 25 attendees. The package includes meeting room rental, wireless Internet, morning and afternoon coffee breaks, lunch, standard AV, LCD, white board, flip chart, mineral water and meeting stationery.

Where: Radisson SAS Hotel Beijing, 6A Bei Sanhuan Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: December 1 – February 29, 2009

Cost: 368 yuan per person

Tel: 5922 3132

Charity

Charity Gala

The Austrian Embassy in Beijing promises an evening of musical magic on their inaugural Charity Gala. Famous Austrian artists Lydia Rathkolb, Sebastian Holecek and Manfred Schiebel will be flown in from Vienna for the concert, with a guest performance by Chinese harpist and soloist, Mei Jia. A schnapps bar and an exciting array of silent auctions will also be features of the evening.

All proceeds from the gala will go to SOS Kinderdorf's work in China.

Where: Grand Millennium Hotel, Fortune Plaza, 7 Dong Sanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 21

Cost: 980 yuan (includes pre-dinner cocktails and canapes, the concert, three-course gourmet dinner and unlimited soft drinks and wine)

Aviation

Air France KLM named Super Sector Leader by both Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes

Air France KLM has been named Super Sector Leader for sustainability in the travel and leisure sector this year, and for the fourth year running leader in its sector by both Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes – DJSI World and DJSI STOXX. This victory acknowledges the airline's commitment to economic growth in line with environmental and social values.

(By Sun Feng)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch out for it each week.

Bait-and-switch tactics in business

By Venus Lee

Last Sunday, I attended a party with old university classmates. When I entered the restaurant where the party was, I saw several female classmates gathered around Laura Liu. They were commenting on how much more beautiful she had become since graduation several months ago.

I noticed there was something different about Laura's face, but could not put my finger on it. When she revealed she had undergone nose reshaping and eyelid reduction surgery, our jaws dropped.

Laura dreams of becoming a TV host, but was never confident about her appearance. So after university graduation, she decided to have cosmetic surgery.

"When I graduated, I didn't have much money, so I chose to have the procedures done at a cheap beauty parlor," she said. "The parlor's so-called beauty consultant boasted of their skill in reconstructive rhinoplasty. She said the silicone products they used were imported, yet they charged a fair price. She also promised me there would be no side-effects to the surgery.

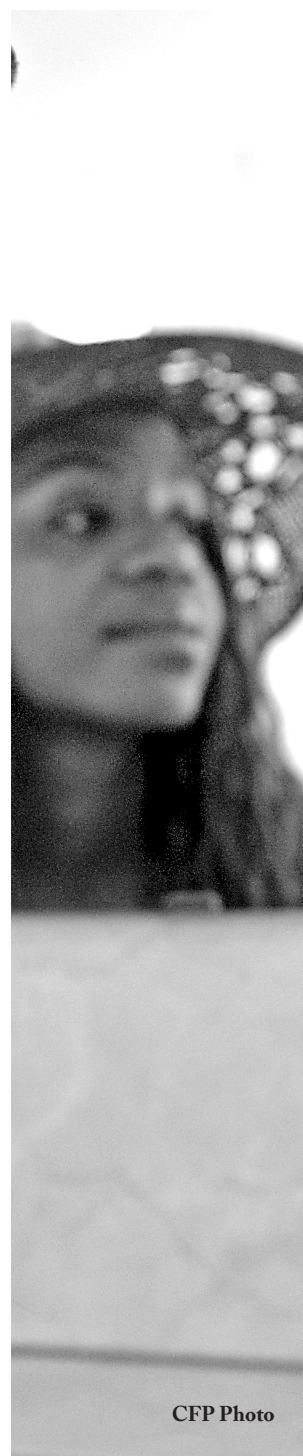
"I trusted her and dreamt about soon becoming a popular TV host. I decided to have the surgery as soon as possible."

Laura celebrated too early, it appeared. After the surgery, she applied to hundreds of jobs, but all ended in failure, she said. She could not even get an office job, let alone that of a TV host! Even worse, she discovered that the silicone implanted into the bridge of her nose came loose. It drove her mad that her rhinoplasty was a failure, so she brought a lawsuit against the beauty parlor.

The court, after conducting an investigation, said the silicone used in her nose was not a registered product. The beauty parlor did not use approved products like they claimed. Laura's story left me with a bad impression of small beauty parlors.

On one occasion, I was speaking to my friend Arrius, a British writer, about the popularity of plastic surgery among Chinese girls. I said: "Facial reconstruction is popular among young girls eager to appear more attractive, but I do not trust small beauty parlors because some of them hang a sheep's head at the door yet sell dog meat." He asked me to explain why a beauty parlor would sell sheep's head and dog meat. I suddenly realized that my Chinglish had confused him.

I told him Laura's unfortunate story. Afterwards, he said: "I get it. The hospital played a bait-and-switch, right? In English, we would describe this situation as 'Buying a pig in a poke.' In old days, some dishonest traders would put a stray cat instead of a piglet into a sack after the buyer had paid for the pig. It means to misrepresent something to be better than it is.



CFP Photo

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Consulting Room for All-Powerful

By Tiffany Tan

This sign, with its green color, is something you can imagine on an alien spaceship. And, aliens as portrayed in Hollywood movies are about the only creatures you can visualize saying with a straight face: "This way to the Consulting Room for All-Powerful. Here we will see if your superpowers need some tuning up."

The words might also bring you back to a time of mighty kings, brilliant wizards and brave knights ... But before we get carried away into fantasy land, let us remem-

ber that this is a hospital sign. The brand of green is itself an identifying factor.

The sign is identifying a room as one used by general practitioners, or GPs, to receive patients. The first two characters on the board, *quan ke*, mean general practice. The other two, *zhen ke*, mean consulting room.

The writer obviously has a lot of respect for GPs, and thought that if these doctors can examine just about any patient, then they must be all-powerful in the field of medicine. I understand where the writer



is coming from, but we are after all earthlings, so we had better stick to a sign that says, "General Practitioners."

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Five-year prison

A prison is a building where criminals are confined. The duration of its operation is usually not discussed. The right way to express this idea is to say: A five-year-long prison term. In a sentence, you may either say: The criminal is convicted of a five-year-long prison term, or, the criminal is convicted of a term of five years in prison.

2. China requires a minimum

6,500 pilots

Grammatically, this sentence is all right. The problem lies in the expression of the idea, which is meant to say that China needs 6,500 pilots more than the existing number. So, you will have to say: China requires a minimum 6,500 more pilots. Though only a word "more" is added, the meaning totally changes. Under certain circumstances, such an otherwise ordinary mistake might cost a corporation heavy losses or render a wrong impression.

3. Cater the Olympics

When "cater" means "to provide food and supplies and sometimes services," it is an intransitive verb. You will have to say who something or someone caters to. For instance, The restaurant caters to the Olympics; or, The restaurant caters to weddings and parties. It also means "to provide what is needed or wanted": This park is a recreational area catering to children from seven to 17 years old.

Native Speaker: Penny Turner

1. Five-year prison

What the writer meant to convey was the length of the prison sentence. You can express this thought in different ways: five years in prison, a five-year prison term, five years' imprisonment. You can also say five-year-long prison term or a term of five years in prison, as Professor Zhu said. Five-year prison, on the other hand, seems to talk about how long the prison had existed or how long it will be in operation – a topic that hardly occurs in day-to-day conversation.

2. China requires a minimum

6,500 pilots

I agree with Professor Zhu that the sentence is grammatically correct. The professor then talks about a context, however, that I am not familiar with. The original sentence means China needs at least 6,500 pilots, conveying the idea that the country needs to bring its pilot count from the current number to 6,500. But Professor Zhu says that what the writer actually means is that "China needs 6,500 more pilots." This definitely conveys a different idea and in this case, it is imperative that the word "more" is used.

3. Cater the Olympics

There is nothing much I would add to Professor Zhu's answer. Just remember that when using "cater" in the context of providing food, supplies or services, stick "to" after cater. That should keep you on the right path.

Movie of the Week

Meet Dave is akin to a sci-fi movie, except that it is a laughter-generating machine. Starring Eddie Murphy, this comedy is not just about an alien invasion, but about love and sacrifice. Even more, in a fun way, it epitomizes the democracy that allows people to present contrasting opinions as equally valid.

Synopsis

A crew of highly advanced miniature aliens operates a spaceship that has a human form, which is later named Dave. The aliens are seeking a way to save their planet, Nil, from an energy crisis.

Scene 2

(Gina finds that the man she hit with her car is in the alley. She invites him back to her house and offers to prepare something for him to eat.)

Gina (G): I'm sorry, I had no idea. You know? Foot in the mouth(4). Listen, do you mind whipping these up for me? That would be great. Just a little help. I'm so used to making breakfast for Josh, and all he wants is waffles. Anyway, he's off to school now. Yeah, I don't know, he's got these bullies after him right now. You don't have any kids, do you? I mean, you don't really seem like a kid person(5), but ... Anyway, I just, I try to be there for him, but I don't really know how to deal with it, you know. I'm just doing the single mom thing, and I'm so permissive of everything. Oh, my God, I am talking your ear off(6).

C: All is well(7).

Scene 3

(No. 3 finds a movie called *It's a Wonderful Life*, which is rebroadcast every Christmas Eve, and she watches it with the Capitan to understand the human race better.)

C: Working rather late, No. 3.

3: I was just doing some additional cultural research.

C: And what have you found?

3: I stumbled onto(8) an interesting file in the alien database, sir. Every man, woman and child is forced to view it once a year. It could be helpful in understanding them.

C: Show me. You have not changed since our days at the Academy. I remember the late nights studying together. And the nutritious protein squares you prepared for us. I would not have been able to graduate without your help.

3: And, yet, here you've become our generation's most renowned(9) Capitan.

C: Yes.

3: Here it is.

(After watching the movie, the Capitan and No. 3 are moved into tears, but are confused by a scene in the movie)

C: Lasso(10) the moon? Physically impossible!

3: Absurd. Good night, Capitan.

C: Yes, Three, good night.

3: I must say, sir, these Earth creatures keep surprising me.

C: A most confusing place. It makes my head spin(11).

Scene 4

(After the Capitan and the crew grow

close to the human race, No. 2, the Capitan's second-in-command insists on continuing their mission to save their planet by destroying Earth. But the crew decides to follow their Capitan and save Earth.)

No. 2 (2): Guards, I said seize him! You've seen what a fool he's been!

C: We all know I am the only one qualified to get us home.

2: Is this what you want? This chaos?

Crew: We choose our Capitan. This planet rocks(12). Deal with it(13).

C: Get out of my chair.

2: Well, Capitan, it seems you have a choice. Save this planet or save yourself.

C: I choose this planet.

2: And what of your beloved crew? Are you willing to condemn them to the same fate? Stranded here in a world of behemoths(14)?

C: I believe it is the right thing to do, but I cannot make this decision for all of you.

3: I say we save Earth, and its moon. My life began on this planet. I no longer feel like No. 3. I am Dave Ming Chang. I have 443 new friends on MySpace and a JDate(15) next week with a woman named Sheila Moskowitz.

Vocabulary

1. Tap into: To use or exploit a plentiful resource for one's benefit.

2. Frivolous: Not serious or sensible.

3. Baffling: Not understandable and explainable.

4. Foot in the mouth: To say something stupid or embarrassing.

5. Kid person: In this context, a person who enjoys children.

6. Talk one's ear off: To bore someone by talking too much.

7. All is well: A situation is satisfactory.

8. Stumble onto: To find or discover something unexpectedly.

9. Renowned: Famous.

10. Lasso: To catch with a long rope with a running noose at one end, used especially to catch horses and cattle.

11. Make my head spin: To feel like fainting because of confusion, shock or having had too much alcohol.

12. Sth/sb rocks: Used to express how much you love something or someone.

13. Deal with it: In this context, it means to accept the reality.

14. Behemoth: Something very large. Here it refers to humans

15. JDate: A date with a Jewish woman.

(By Milo Lee)

